



Mildura Rural City Council

AGENDA

Ordinary Meeting of Council

5.00pm Thursday 24 August 2017

VENUE:

**Committee & Council Room
76 Deakin Ave, Mildura**

NEXT ORDINARY COUNCIL MEETING

5.00pm Thursday 28 September 2017

Copies of Mildura Rural City Council's Agendas & Minutes
can be obtained online at www.mildura.vic.gov.au

Prayer

Almighty God,

We who are gathered together in Council,
pledge ourselves to work in harmony for
the welfare and development of our Rural City.

Guide us, we pray, in our deliberations,
help us to be fair in our judgement and
wise in our actions,
so that prosperity and happiness
shall be the lot of our people.

Amen.

Acknowledgement of Country

“I would like to acknowledge the traditional custodians of
the land on which we are meeting, the Latji Latji people,
and pay my respects to Elders both past and present.”

Note to Councillors

Declaration of Interest

Councillors should note that in accordance with Section 77A of the *Local Government Act 1989*, there is an obligation to declare a conflict of interest in a matter before Council.

A conflict of interest can be a direct or indirect interest in a matter.

A person has a direct interest if:

1. There is a reasonable likelihood that the benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances of the person would be directly altered if the matter is decided in a particular way;
2. There is a reasonable likelihood that the person will receive a direct benefit or loss that can be measured in financial terms if the matter is decided in a particular way;
3. There is a reasonable likelihood that the residential amenity of the person will be directly affected if the matter is decided in a particular way.

A person has an indirect interest if the person has:

1. A close association whereby a "family member" of the person has a direct or indirect interest or a "relative" has a direct interest, or a member of the person's household has a direct interest in a matter;
2. An indirect financial interest in the matter;
3. A conflicting duty;
4. Received an "applicable" gift;
5. Become an interested party in the matter by initiating civil proceedings or becoming a party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter; or
6. A residential amenity affect.

Disclosure of Interest

A Councillor must make full disclosure of a conflict of interest by advising the class and nature of the interest immediately before the matter is considered at the meeting. While the matter is being considered or any vote taken, the Councillor with the conflict of interest must leave the room and notify the Chairperson that he or she is doing so.

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GERARD JOSÉ

CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

1 PRAYER AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY

2 OPENING AND WELCOME

3 PRESENT

4 APOLOGIES

Cr Greg Brown

5 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Ordinary Council Meeting held on 27 July 2017

That Council confirm the minutes of the Ordinary Council Meeting of 27 July 2017 as a correct record

Confidential Council Meeting held on 27 July 2017

That Council confirm the minutes of the Confidential Council Meeting of 27 July 2017 as a correct record

6 CONFIRMATION OF ASSEMBLY OF COUNCILLORS

In accordance with Section 80A of *the Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), records of Assemblies of Councillors must be reported at the next practicable Council meeting and recorded in the minutes.

An Assembly of Councillors is defined in Section 76AA of the Act as a meeting at which matters are considered that are intended or likely to be the subject of a Council decision or the exercise of a delegated authority and which is either of the following:

- A meeting of an advisory committee where at least one Councillor is present; or
- A planned or scheduled meeting that includes at least half the Councillors and at least one Council officer.

The record is therefore presented for Council's noting.

Recommendation

That Council note the Assembly of Councillors records for the meetings as presented in the following table:

RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS

Assembly Details	Councillor Attendees	Officer Attendees	Matters Discussed	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee 17 July 2017 2.00pm	Cr Simon Clemence	Richard Sexton, Manager, Corporate Administration Peter l'Anson, Emergency Management Project Officer Martin Hawson, General Manager, Community Mark Jenkins, Manager, Community Futures Jody Jones, Community Development Coordinator Geoff Burr, Community Liaison Officer Kerryne McClelland, Community Executive Recovery Officer Caitlin Tuohy, Recovery Communications & Engagement Officer Michael Vaughan, Infrastructure Services Coordinator Sjaakie Adriaans, Local Laws Coordinator Kate Redman, Administration Officer Risk & Emergency Management Simone Jones, Administration Support Officer Risk & Emergency Management	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. MEMPC Steering Committee Sub-Committee Activity 2. External Agency Reports/Presentations 3. Technical Rescue Project – Mallee Implementation Plan 4. VPR Workshop January 2017 5. MEMP Audit 	Nil
Planning Forum 24 July 2017 5.30pm	Cr Simon Clemence Cr Anthony Cirillo Cr Mark Eckel Cr Jason Modica Cr Min Poole Cr Max Thorburn	Gerard José, Chief Executive Officer Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development Andrew Millen, Manager Development Services Damien Sutton, Statutory Planning Coordinator	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Recommendation:- Refuse Extension of Time for a Planning Permit - Planning Application Number 005.2009.00000433.001 2. Recommendation:- Refuse Extension of Time for a Planning Permit – Planning Application Number 005.2009.00000487.001 3. Recommendation:- Refuse Extension of Time for a Planning Permit – Planning 	Cr Glenn Milne disclosed an indirect conflict of interest by close association on matters 1-3

Assembly Details	Councillor Attendees	Officer Attendees	Matters Discussed	Conflict of Interest Disclosures
			Application Number 005.2011.00000110.001	
CEO Employment Matters Committee 8 August 2017 1.00pm	Cr Anthony Cirillo Cr Simon Clemence Cr Glenn Milne Cr Jason Modica	Richard Sexton, Manager Corporate Administration Phil Shanahan, Independent Chairperson	1. CEO Performance Review October 2015 to October 2016	Nil
Finance Advisory Committee Meeting 10 August 2017 12.45pm	Cr Anthony Cirillo Cr Simon Clemence Cr Glenn Milne Cr Jason Modica	Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development Chris Parham, General Manager Corporate David Folvig, Manager Financial Services	1. Contract – Mildura Post Bill Pay Contract	Nil
Council Forum 10 August 2017 1.00pm	Cr Greg Brown Cr Anthony Cirillo Cr Simon Clemence Cr Mark Eckel Cr Glenn Milne Cr Min Poole Cr Max Thorburn	Gerard José, Chief Executive Officer Martin Hawson, General Manager Community Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development Chris Parham, General Manager Corporate Richard Sexton, Manager Corporate Administration	1. Rail Update 2. Mallee Floodplain Management Strategy 3. La Trobe University/SuniTAFE Update 4. Draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 5. Monthly Management Report 6. Councillors' Portfolios 7. Community Plan Support Fund – Outen Park Fencing 8. Councillor's Questions	Nil

7 NOTIFICATION OF ABSENCE

8 MAYORAL REPORT

8.1 MAYOR'S REPORT JULY 2017

File Number: 02/01/06

1. Summary

The following is a report on the activities and functions attended by the Mayor during the month of July 2017.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report.

3. Comments

- Report attached regarding Kunming visit in June 2017
- Provide Speech Community Corroboree, NAIDOC Week
- NAIDOC Week Flag Raising
- Riverfront Tour with The Hon John Eren
- NAIDOC Week Celebrations – Our Languages Matter
- NAIDOC Week Luncheon, Mildura Police Station
- 2017 NAIDOC Victorian State Government Reception, Melbourne
- Gallery F Exhibition Opening Clay3
- Employee Recognition Awards Briefing
- Meeting with Senator Jacinta Collins
- Edge of the Outback Photo Exhibition Opening
- Finance Portfolio Meeting
- Finance Advisory Committee Meeting
- Council Forum
- Rail Freight Alliance Meeting
- Koorlong Hall Camp Oven Cook Off
- Citizenship Ceremony
- Audit Committee Meeting
- Mildura Motorsport and Community Precinct Launch
- Mildura Urban Fire Brigade Annual Dinner
- Provide Welcome: International Society of Citrus Nurserymen's Congress
- Planning Forum
- Murray Darling Association Region 4 Meeting, Broken Hill
- Northern Mallee Leaders Lunch – Great Small Cities
- Ordinary Council Meeting
- Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct Draft Business Case
- Red Cliffs Senior Citizen's Centre Annual General Meeting
- Bakersfield Mist Performance
- Solar Resource Workshop, Melbourne
- Northern Mallee Local Learning Network Board Meeting

Report to Mildura Rural City Council July 2017 for Kunming visit June 10 to 17.

Kunming 2017 South & Southeast Asia Commodity Expo and Investment Fair.

The trip began with a 10.30am flight to Melbourne where I was to meet up with Brett Millington of Mildura Regional Development Corp and Cr Mark Eckel taking an evening flight to Guangzhou then a connecting flight to Kunming.

While waiting in the queue to collect my ticket I received a call from Cr Eckel advising that he was in hospital having suffered a heart attack while walking with his son in Melbourne mid afternoon. Our visit plans changed from that point with Mr Millington and myself continuing while Cr Eckel received treatment for his condition.

Eventually arriving in Kunming at 11.00am on the 11th we were taken to the Hotel by our hosts whom we met at the airport, getting to our rooms at around 1.30pm.



Our program began immediately with lunch and a brief and what the plans were for the next few days. I was to attend the Welcome Banquet of 2017 South & Southeast Asia Commodities Expo and Investment Fair hosted by Ruan Chengfa, Governor, People's Government of Yunnan Province People's Republic of China. This dinner was attended by around 300 guests, representatives of sponsor companies and representatives of attending Nations.

The theme of the Fair was built around the "Belt and Road Initiative" contributing to the building of a road of peace, prosperity, openness, innovation and modern civilization and a community of shared future for mankind. This theme is promoted throughout China and headlines in the

newspapers. The beginnings of the theme date back in Chinese history with the Southern Silk Road of the Qin and Han dynasties and the Tea Horse Road of the Tang and Song dynasties.

Under the Belt and Road Initiative Yunan has entered Sistership agreements with 33 cities in 11 Countries of South Asia and Southeast Asia, established 8 bilateral/multilateral sub-national cooperation mechanisms with 7 Countries and launched an extensive capacity cooperation with a wide range of States. Yunan is pushing to promote itself as a destination for business, tourism and production and is working actively to promote its produce into wider markets.



Monday the 12th began with a visit to the Investment Fair for the opening ceremony which both Brett and myself were invited to attend, along with about two thousand other guests. The size of the Trade Fair building is an eye opener, around ten to fifteen times bigger than "Jeff's Shed" with an elevated ring road built around the top of three floors.

Following the opening we spent the afternoon with our Chinese hosts being guided through the many halls, 18 on the top floor and about the same on the ground floor, speaking with many of the stall holders and gaining an insight into the opportunities that exist for Australia, and particularly Mildura, in having a presence at this event.



Monday evening we attended the International Sistership Night Buffet Reception at the invitation of the People's Government of Yunnan Province. This reception was for all the countries that had

Sistership arrangements with cities in Yunnan Province and was attended by the Deputy Mayor of Kunming whom I was able to spend some time with, discussing what Mildura has to offer and also what the opportunities are in Kunming and Yunnan Province. We were able to discuss the advantages of student visits between China and Australia as well as discussing the growing investment into Australia, in particular Mildura, and the opportunities for small businesses to source products from China as well as Chinese small businesses sourcing Australian products.

Overseas education for students is an important part of a student's education process with many students taking International classes as part of their preparation to study overseas when they begin their tertiary education. Sistercity (or Sistership) relationships are very important in this process as the Chinese are very loyal to these relationships and wish to have their students study at their chosen sister city. Dali see Mildura as being their preferred education provider for their students travelling to Australia.



The Sistership night was also attended by representatives from our Sister City Dali who were also visiting the Dali pavilion at the Trade and Investment Fair.

On Tuesday and Wednesday we spent the day at the Trade and Investment Fair hosted by officials from our Sister City Dali. We met with business owners and their families and discussed trade opportunities and gained a better understanding of the magnitude of change in China and how Australia is seen by the citizens of Dali, Kunming and Yunnan Province.



The scale of the Trade and Investment Fair is far greater than anything we have in Australia, the venue makes "Jeff's Shed" look like a little garden shed in comparison. The displays covered food, wine, clothing, travel goods, beer, furniture, cars, aeroplanes, technology, handicrafts, cosmetics, toys, shoes, art, pottery and more from many Asian Nations as well as China itself.





There was a number of Australian stands promoting wine and food as well as one promoting a range of health and cosmetic products, there was one stand selling food items like Wheatbix (\$16 for a large box that we pay \$4.50 for). We spoke to the majority of stall holders promoting Australian goods to gauge the response they were receiving and to gain some insight into the size of their business, the success and what they saw in the way of opportunities to increase trade.



From the information we gained it is very clear that there is huge potential for Australian businesses to trade in this region, both buying and selling goods. The opportunity is clearly there for Mildura Regional Development to work with local business people as well as businesses based in China to increase trade and develop new businesses based in Mildura.



To highlight one of the many opportunities that exist, Yunnan Province has a large coffee industry and produces some very nice tasting coffee's, there may well be a strong market in Australia for coffee from the region.

Our hosts also arranged to show us around the Kunming district which is undergoing constant large scale development with major housing complexes under construction. We saw at least nineteen housing complexes of around 40 stories being built in the area we were staying. There are projects to reclaim land, stabilise hills, clean up old housing complexes and modernising farming projects across the region.

It is clear that China and in particular Dali offers many opportunities for our community in education and trade and the continued cooperation between our communities is of mutual benefit.

Our return flight home was interesting to say the least, stuck on the runway in Guangzhou for over an hour during a huge storm that flooded the runway, then plane delays for hours as they tried to clear flights with the storm continuing as we waited. Missing connecting flights due to late arrival in Melbourne, resulting in an extremely long trip home to Australia and more waiting in Melbourne after purchasing alternate flights.

While this report is a very brief overview, the information gathered will be put to constructive use by Mildura Regional Development in the near future as we continue to foster business growth between Mildura and Dali as well as Kunming and the Yunnan Province.

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9 COUNCILLORS REPORTS

9.1 COUNCILLORS' REPORT JULY 2017

File Number: 02/01/06

1. Summary

The following is a report on the activities and functions attended by Councillors during the month of July 2017.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report.

3. Comments

Cr Greg Brown

- Pioneer Park Committee / Meringur Christmas in July
- Murrayville Local Management Plan Advisory Committee Meeting

Cr Anthony Cirillo

- Fish without Borders, Renmark
- Finance Portfolio Meeting
- Environmental Sustainability Portfolio Meeting
- Finance Advisory Committee Meeting

Cr Simon Clemence

- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Committee Meeting
- Comparative Data Meeting with Council Officers
- Municipal Emergency Management Planning Sub Committee Meeting

Cr Ali Cupper

- Guest Speaker - 100 Years of Maternal and Child Health Services in Victoria Celebration

Cr Mark Eckel

- Victims of Violence White Ribbon Meeting
- Mildura Victims of Violence Meeting
- Courts Registrar Meeting
- Meeting with Rate Payer, Olive Avenue
- Mallee Family Violence Executive Meeting
- Psyche Bend Road Meeting

Cr Jason Modica

- 100 Years of Maternal and Child Health Services in Victoria Celebration
- Fish without Borders, Renmark
- Edge of the Outback Photo Exhibition Opening
- Australian Inland Botanic Gardens Meeting
- Finance Portfolio Meeting

- Finance Advisory Committee Meeting
- Audit Committee Meeting
- North West Rail Alliance Meeting, Donald
- Cullulleraine Music Festival Annual General Meeting

Cr Min Poole

- Employee Recognition Awards Briefing
- Review Community Plan Support Funding
- Mildura Cemetery Trust Chair Report Discussions
- Meeting with Manager Corporate Administration

Cr Max Thorburn

- Please refer to the table below

This table represents attendances by two or more Councillors at the following functions, as advised by Councillor acceptances for such functions:

Function Attended	COUNCILLOR (✓)								
	Brown	Cirillo	Clemence	Cupper	Eckel	Milne	Modica	Poole	Thorburn
Council Forum	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Ordinary Council Meeting	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
Confidential Councillor Briefing		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Planning Forum		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
NAIDOC Week Flag Raising Event			✓			✓	✓	✓	
NAIDOC Week Celebrations – Our Language Matters			✓			✓	✓	✓	
Horticulture Sustainability Development Strategy Briefing		✓	✓		✓	✓	✓		
Community Corroboree Event							✓	✓	
Welcome Baby to Country							✓	✓	
Citizenship Ceremony			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Mildura Motorsport and Community Precinct Launch			✓		✓	✓	✓		
Northern Mallee Leaders Lunch			✓		✓	✓	✓	✓	
Mildura South Regional Sporting Precinct Business Case					✓	✓	✓	✓	
Meeting with Senator Jacinta Collins						✓	✓		
Mildura Writers' Festival Opening					✓		✓		
Bakersfield Mist Performance						✓	✓	✓	

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

10 RESPONSES TO COUNCILLORS QUESTIONS

10.1 CR MAX THORBURN - LIQUOR LICENCE - MILDURA HARNESS RACING CLUB

Record Number: 005.2017.00000105.001

"Why are the rejected change of serving liquor hours for the Mildura Harness Racing Club which holds an existing licence more restrictive than the existing football clubs at the recreation reserve, when the harness racing club has a zero record in compliance with alcohol delivery?"

This matter was addressed by Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development in a memorandum provided to Councillors dated 7 August 2017.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report

10.2 CR MAX THORBURN - LIQUOR SERVICE HOURS - MILDURA HARNESS RACING CLUB

Record Number: 005.2017.00000105.001

"Why are we suggesting to the police department suggested hours for the trotting club needs to comply with?"

This matter was addressed by Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development in a memorandum provided to Councillors dated 7 August 2017.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

10.3 CR MAX THORBURN - NICHOLS POINT GROUP ACCOMMODATION APPLICATION

Record Number: 005.2017.00000136.001

“Why is there a delay in the calling up of a Nichols Point application by Mr Lamattina for group accommodation which according to process, has been done?”

This matter was addressed by Mandy Whelan, General Manager Development in a memorandum provided to Councillors dated 7 August 2017.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

11 QUESTIONS FROM COUNCILLORS

12 NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

13 PETITIONS

Nil

14 MANAGEMENT REPORTS

14.1 DRAFT COMMUNITY HEALTH AND WELLBEING PLAN - PUBLIC EXHIBITION

File Number: 12/14/22
Officer: General Manager Community

1. Summary

This Council report details the Mildura Rural City Council Draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan (CHWBP) to be released for public exhibition.

2. Recommendation

That Council endorse the Draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan for public exhibition.

3. Background

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is a legislated plan – *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* with every Victorian Local Government organisation required to provide a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of the general election for ministerial approval.

Mildura Rural City Council has a responsibility to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, reduce health inequalities and create healthy environments for everyone who lives, learns, works or plays in our community. The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (or Community Health and Wellbeing Plan) provides a framework that supports the health and wellbeing of the community.

The Act requires that in addition to addressing local needs and contexts, the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan needs to:

- Have regard to the State Plan (Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019)
- Draw on evidence, involve the community and include evaluations to improve planning and coordination
- Promote a collaborative approach including how Council will work in partnership with Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies that undertake public health initiatives, projects and programs
- Be consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

Public participation in the design of the plan was defined in a detailed engagement plan that was coordinated by a Project Control Group (PCG). Membership of the PCG included both Council and key external stakeholders.

Table1. Engagement activities undertaken in the development of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.

Consultation and Engagement Activity	Method	Participation
Consult with internal and external stakeholders to provide input into and feedback on the key indicators and measures to be included in the State of Mildura Rural City Council Report 2017.	Interviews	21 - internal 16 - external
Inform internal and external stakeholder of the State of Mildura Rural City Council Report findings and associated indicators.	Email	33
Collaborate with PCG to determine the final content of the State of Mildura Rural City Council report.	Meeting	Completed
Analysis of community feedback from extensive consultation undertaken through the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Hands Up Mallee (HUM) community conversations to provide additional information outside the scope of Phase One and ensure direct community input that focusses on Health & Wellbeing.	Survey Drop in stall Activities and events	HUM Community Conversations 1614 engaged Council Plan Consultation 2956 engaged
Consult with key stakeholder agencies and organisations executive staff to identify mutually beneficial outcomes and shared indicators relevant to the five Health and Wellbeing Framework domains and the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.	Interviews	13
Online survey to confirm the priority, actions and commitments of key stakeholder agencies and organisation.	Survey	15
Circulate Draft strategy to key stakeholders involved in the development of the plan for community and feedback for formulation of the final plan.	Email	Early August 2017
Place the draft plan on public exhibition and invite formal submissions and general community to input into the final plan.	Various	Late August -early September 2017
Launch the State Mildura Rural City Council Report and Community Health and Wellbeing 2017-2021 plan at a public event to complete the communication loop.	TBA	

5. Discussion

Local Government's contribution to the promotion, improvement and protection of public health occurs through a myriad of activities including planning processes, environmental monitoring, management, health promotion activities and more traditional public health concerns and services such as waste management, prevention of infectious diseases, food safety and monitoring drinking water quality.

Council's draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 aligns the traditional public health and wellbeing expectations and requirements of Local Government with the strategic direction of the state and region through the connection of local priorities to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes framework five domains of health. The five domains provide a 'line of sight' from the overall vision to the outcomes, and describe key components of achieving the vision.

1. Victorians are healthy and well.
2. Victorians are safe and secure.
3. Victorians have the capability to participate.
4. Victorians are connected to culture and community.
5. Victoria is liveable.

The priorities of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 have been identified through four phases of the plans development:

Phase One: Pre-planning

- Refine and complete Project Plan
- Establish Project Control Group (PCG) including key health partners
- Identification of key stakeholders and partners.

Phase Two: Municipal Scan

- Development of Mildura Rural City Council's State of Mildura Rural City Report 2017 – a comprehensive demographic, health and wellbeing profile for the Mildura municipality
- Review of Council's plans and strategies from a health and wellbeing perspective
- Review of relevant Federal and State policies, health priorities and frameworks
- Review of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017.

Phase Three: Consultation and Engagement

- Internal and external health partners and agency consultations
- Community consultations including analysis of the Council Plan 2017-2021 and Hands Up Mallee (HUM) community conversations.

Phase Four: Planning Decisions

- Analysis of consultations findings
- Priority setting – identification of priority areas
- Development of goals, strategies and actions and prepare a draft CHWBP 2017- 2021
- Public exhibition and redrafting
- Council approval.

A Community Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee consisting of internal and external stakeholders who play a pivotal role improving population health outcomes across the municipality will continue to work in partnership strategically in the implementation and evaluation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.

6. Time Frame

The draft Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 is a four year strategic plan.

The public exhibition and consultation phase will be for two weeks.

The final Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is planned to go to Council for adoption in September 2017.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

This report relates to the Council Plan in the Key Result Areas:

1.3 Community Health and Wellbeing

Goal to be achieved:

- high levels of community health and wellbeing.

4.5 Organisational Management

Goals to be achieved:

- a performing organisation;
- effectively manage risk; and
- Council is an employer of choice.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There are no asset management implications associated with this report.

9. Implications

Policy

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan also relates to the following Council Policies:

- Social Inclusion Policy CP019
- Alcohol Management Policy CP099
- Environmental Sustainability Policy CP041
- Crime Prevention through Environmental Design Policy CP036
- Community Engagement Policy CP020
- Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Recognition Policy CP020

Legal/Statutory

It is a statutory responsibility under the *Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* S.26 of the Bill that each local government in Victoria develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan within 12 months of Council election.

Financial

The majority of actions included in the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan will be implemented within existing resources for core services identified through the annual operational budgets.

Any projects outside existing operational budgets will be subject to Council approval through Council's annual budgetary process.

Environmental

Through climate change adaption strategies contribute to building resilient communities that are less affected by major climatic events such as storms and floods.

Social

- Increased emotional and wellbeing resilience in the community
- Increased awareness and leadership in the prevention of family violence
- Increased engagement with our youth to ensure their participation and involvement in decision making in our community
- Gender equality is recognised and promoted.

Economic

Increased community access to a diversity of high quality lifelong learning, vocational and employment opportunities.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risks.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1 Draft - Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021



Mildura Rural City Council

Community Health & Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021

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Acknowledgement of Country

We acknowledge the traditional custodians of the land which now comprises the Mildura Rural City Council area, and to those of our neighbouring municipalities. We pay our respects to Elders past and present; we celebrate and respect their continuing culture and connection to the land.

Message from the Mayor

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 is one of Mildura Rural City Council's key strategic plans.

Together with the Community and Council Plan, it outlines our strategic planning framework – our vision for the municipality in which we all live, for the next four years.

The priorities and actions within this plan have been informed by state-wide and local data as well as comprehensive consultation with our key stakeholders, local residents and organisations.

Our community's health and wellbeing are our greatest assets. Physical health, feeling safe and secure, being connected to culture and community, and the ability to participate are crucial elements of a healthy community.

These factors, along with maintaining a liveable, resilient community, are the cornerstones of our Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

As a municipality we face complex health and social challenges, and it's everyone's responsibility to play a part in protecting and supporting the overall wellbeing and health of our residents. Partnerships and collaboration are essential to achieving this.

I am proud to see collaborative efforts committed to as part of this plan, addressing priority areas such as:

- preventing violence and injury
- improving mental health
- reducing harmful alcohol and drug use
- tobacco free living
- healthier eating and active living.

I would like to thank everyone who has made a contribution to this plan and offer our commitment to working together as a community to improve health and wellbeing over the next four years.

Cr Glenn Milne
Mayor

Introduction

Mildura Rural City Council has a responsibility to improve health and wellbeing outcomes, reduce health inequalities and create healthy environments for everyone who lives, learns, works or plays in our community.

The *Victorian Public Health & Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) requires local government to develop a Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan every four years. The Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan (or *Community Health and Wellbeing Plan*) provides a framework that supports the health and wellbeing of the community. The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan (CHWBP) must be completed within 12 months of the general election of a new Council.

The Act requires that in addition to addressing local needs and contexts, the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan needs to:

- *Have regard to the State Plan (Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019);*
- *Draw on evidence; involve the community, and include evaluations to improve planning and coordination;*
- *Promote a collaborative approach including how Council will work in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services and other agencies that undertake public health initiatives, projects and programs;*
- *Be consistent with the Council Plan and the Municipal Strategic Statement.*

Local Government's contribution to the promotion, improvement and protection of public health occurs through a myriad of activities including planning processes, environmental monitoring and management, health promotion activities and more traditional public health concerns such as waste management, prevention of infectious diseases, food safety and monitoring drinking water quality.

Background

The Mildura Rural City Council Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 is a high-level plan that sets the goals and priorities for protecting, improving and promoting health and wellbeing within the municipality.

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan brings together the work being done within the municipality that impacts on the health and wellbeing of our community. It embraces a collaborative approach and informs, aligns with or complements other Council policies, strategies and plans.

Council is also committed to working in partnership with a range of health, human service and other organisations and community members to identify initiatives that will enable an integrated and multi-sectoral approach.

The aim of the Mildura Rural City Council Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is to achieve maximum levels of health and wellbeing through identifying and assessing the actual and potential public health issues in the community and outlining strategies and actions to prevent or minimise them. It also aims to identify the opportunities to support health and wellbeing through the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework five domains of health:

- Victorians are healthy and well
- Victorians are safe and secure
- Victorians have the capabilities to participate
- Victorians are connected to culture and community
- Victoria is liveable

Community Health and Wellbeing Planning

Council has a range of functions determined by the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* that relate to the protection, improvement and promotion of the public health and wellbeing of the municipality.

They include:

- Creating an environment which supports the health of the local community and strengthens the capacity of the community and individuals to achieve better health.
- Initiating, supporting and managing public health planning processes at the local government level.
- Developing and implementing public health policies and programs within the municipal district.

- Developing and enforcing up-to-date public health standards and intervening if the health of people within the municipal district is affected.
- Facilitating and supporting local agencies whose work has an impact on public health and wellbeing.
- Co-ordinating and providing immunisation services to children living or being educated within the municipal district; and
- Ensuring that the municipal district is maintained in a clean and sanitary condition.

These responsibilities are actioned by Council through the delivery of health protection and health promotion programs addressing areas of food safety, tobacco control, infectious disease management, immunisation and regulation of businesses that pose a threat to public health.

Council also delivers a wide range of services and community infrastructure that directly or indirectly impact the social, economic and environmental influences of health. This includes community infrastructure like roads and drainage, waste management services, land use planning, recreational facilities, parks and open space for leisure and emergency management planning and response.

Council services that support our community include services for aged, families, youth, children, arts and culture programs, community events, public libraries and community development grants.

Links to Council Planning

The Mildura Rural City Council Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 is aligned to the Community and Council Plan 2017-2021. The Community and Council Plan guides Council's priorities over the next four years. Our Community Vision has also been used to guide the preparation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Vision: Making this the most liveable, people-friendly community in Australia

Our Partners in Health and Wellbeing

Council recognises there are many well-developed partnerships in place across Council which influence a range of health and wellbeing outcomes. This document has been prepared in conjunction with external partner organisations to highlight specific priorities common to our organisations which require a collaborative focus, strategic leadership and advocacy to achieve collective impact for the community.

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan will evolve and develop as the partnerships strengthen and collaborative objectives and actions commence.

Collective Impact and Systems Approaches

An increasing emphasis is being placed on collective impact and systems approaches. A collective impact approach commits to a Common Agenda, establishes shared goals and measures of success, undertakes mutually reinforcing activities, ensures effective community participation and commits to ongoing communication between partners. A systems approach offers the ability to think big about population health issues and find effective solutions by considering the various elements of the system, how they interact and the opportunities to influence and change the way the system operates.

What is Hands Up Mallee?

The local Collective Impact initiative, Hands Up Mallee, aims to make long term social change that will improve the quality of people's lives and overall wellbeing of our community.

The initiative brings together diverse views and ideas from across our community to identify the social issues that have the greatest impact on our long term wellbeing and determine how best to address them. It coordinates effort and resources across all sectors including non-profits, social services, business, communities, philanthropic and governments to improve the systems that serve us. It will require advocating for State and Federal alignment of policies and resources for the large-scale social change we need.

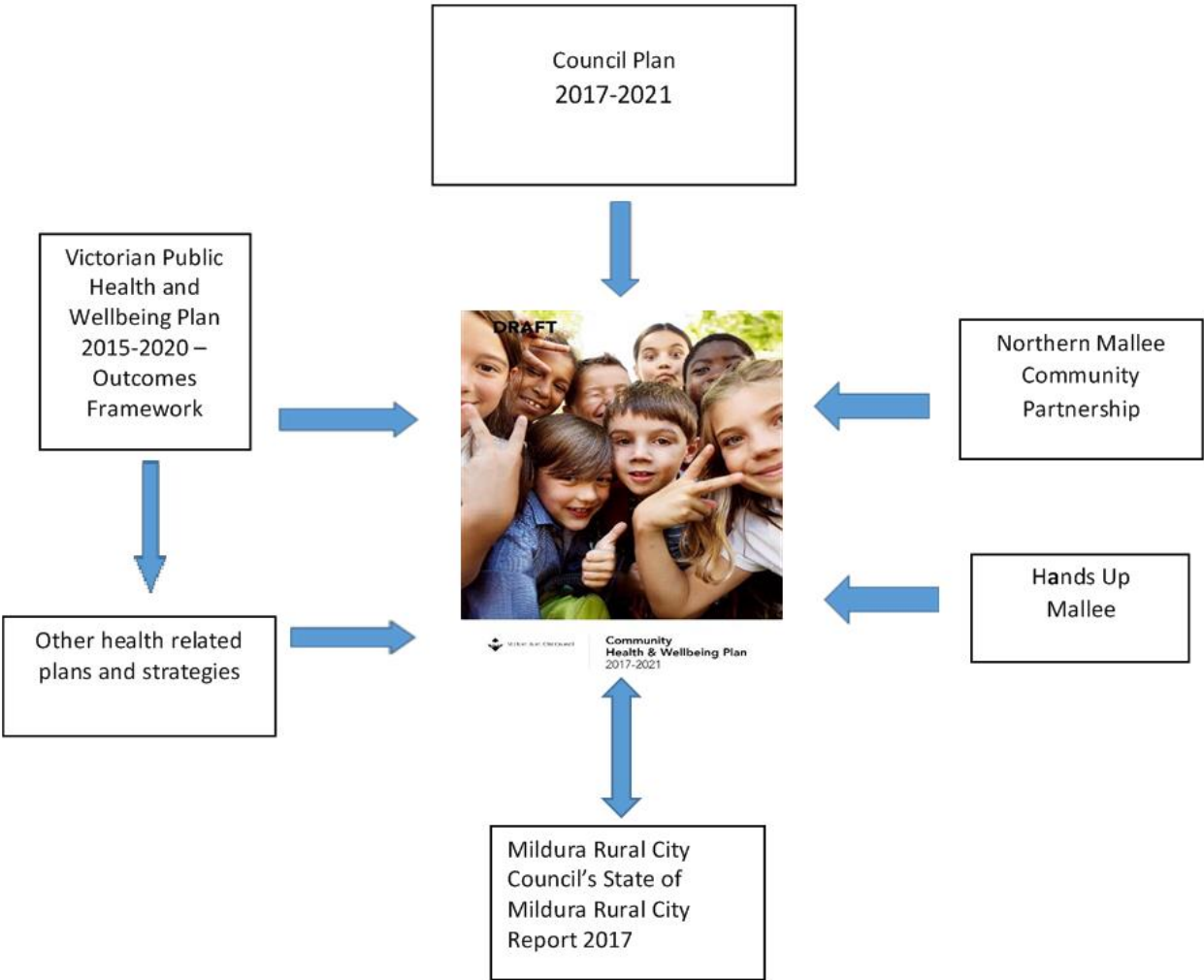
Hands Up Mallee's success depends on the meaningful involvement of people in our community who are most affected by the issues. Their experience is critical to understanding the problems, their root causes and creating solutions that work for them. Over an eight month period, Community Conversations were held and over 1,600 people were involved and had their voice heard. The information received was invaluable and has been formed to create an emerging Common Agenda. The four broad goal areas include Parenting, Mentoring and Families, Early Years 0 – 8, Education Support and Flexibility 9 – 15 and Meaningful and Sustainable Employment.

There are no quick fixes, this is long term work. It requires changing culture around the way we think and work together, how we make decisions about programs, policies, resourcing and ultimately how the system we are all part of serves our community. Changing the system will take years. We will try new ideas, succeed, fail, learn and adapt as we grow. Fortunately we can build on our already existing partnerships and successes which places us in a strong position.

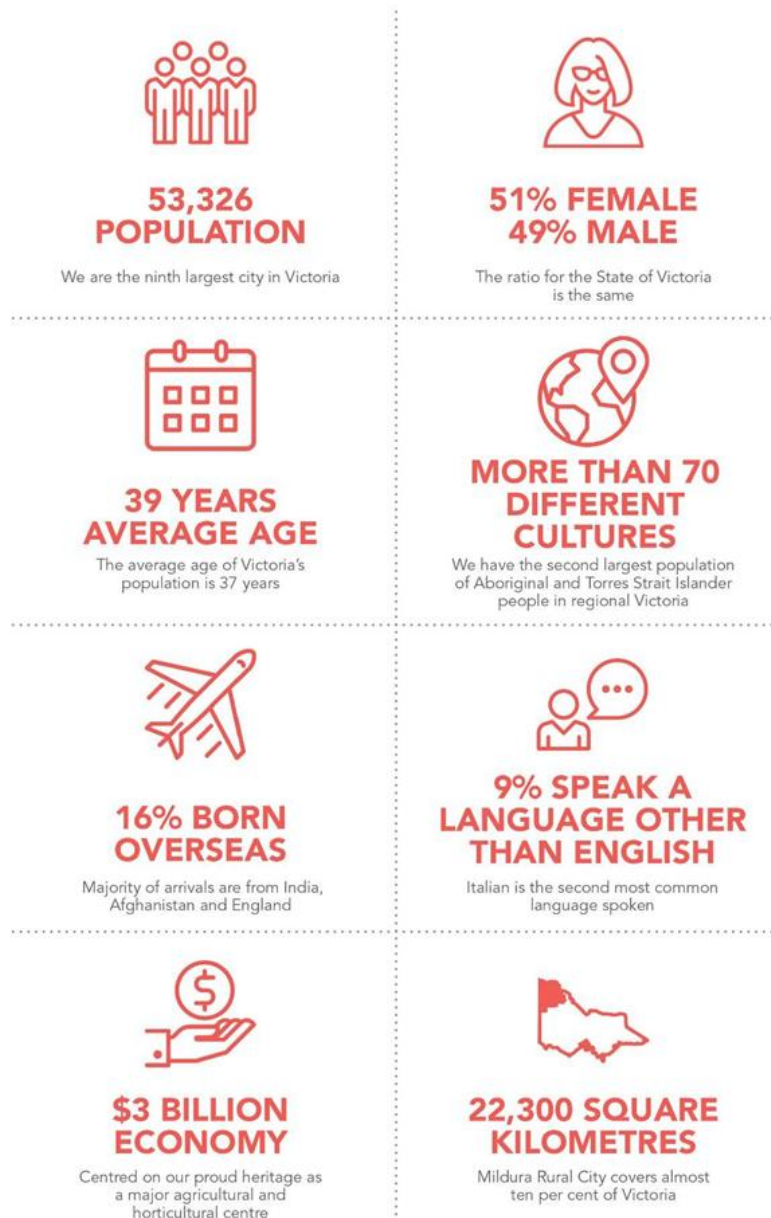
We need ongoing commitment, support and effort to create change for our community. This means thinking and talking to others about how each of us can align

the work we do, our strategies, funding applications and projects towards achieving our community’s shared aspirations. This way of thinking and working together must become a part of our daily lives.

Strategic Alignment to local action to deliver measurable impacts and change



Municipal profile



Development of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan

Mildura Rural City Council's Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 was developed through an analysis of comprehensive data and engagement with a broad range of stakeholders and community members. Each stage of the process included engagement, consultation and active feedback.

A Community Health and Wellbeing Project Control Group was established to create a partnership approach to the development of the plan. The membership of this group consists of organisations and agencies, which play a pivotal role in improving population health outcomes across the municipality.

Involving the community and internal and external stakeholders was fundamental in understanding the health and wellbeing needs of the community. It also provided an opportunity to identify the strengths in the municipality and understand the challenges. Along with building relationships that will be valuable in implementing the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

Research

The research process undertaken to understand and determine the health and wellbeing priorities for Mildura Rural City Council included:

- Review of Mildura Rural City Council's State of Mildura Rural City Report 2017 – a comprehensive demographic, health and wellbeing profile for the Mildura municipality
- Review of Council plans and strategies from a health and wellbeing perspective
- Relevant Federal and State policies, health priorities and frameworks
- Review of the former Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017
- Consultations and planning sessions with representatives from key partner organisations and internal stakeholders

How has the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan been informed?



The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is structured according to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019 framework's five domains of health:

- Victorians are healthy and well
- Victorians are safe and secure
- Victorians have the capabilities to participate
- Victorians are connected to culture and community
- Victoria is liveable

Table 1: Summary of the outcomes framework

Domain 1: Victorians are healthy and well	Domain 2: Victorians are safe and secure	Domain 3: Victorians have the capabilities to participate
Outcome Victorians have good physical health	Outcome Victorians live free from abuse and violence	Outcome Victorians participate in learning and education
Indicators Increase healthy start in life Reduce premature death Reduce preventable chronic diseases Increase self-rated health Decrease unintentional injury Increase oral health Increase sexual and reproductive health	Indicators Reduce prevalence and impact of abuse and neglect of children Reduce prevalence and impact of family violence Increase community safety	Indicators Decrease developmental vulnerability Increase educational attainment
Outcome Victorians have good mental health	Outcome Victorians have suitable and stable housing	Outcome Victorians participate in and contribute to the economy
Indicators Increase mental wellbeing Decrease suicide	Indicator Decrease homelessness	Indicator Increase labour market participation
Outcome Victorians act to protect and promote health	Domain 4: Victorians are connected to culture and community	Domain 5: Victoria is liveable
Indicators Increase healthy eating and active living Reduce overweight and obesity Reduce smoking Reduce harmful alcohol and drug use Increase immunisation	Outcome Victorians are socially engaged and live in inclusive communities	Outcome Victorians belong to resilient and liveable communities
	Indicators Increase connection to culture and communities Increase access to social support	Indicators Increase neighbourhood liveability Increase adaptation to the impacts of climate change
	Outcome Victorians can safely identify and connect with their culture and identity	Outcome Victorians have access to sustainable built and natural environments
	Indicator Increase tolerance of diversity	Indicator Increase environmental sustainability and quality

Priority Areas

The five priority areas provide the framework for the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021 are:

- preventing violence and injury
- improving mental health
- reducing harmful alcohol and drug use
- tobacco free living
- healthier eating and active living.

To ensure that work in the community is effective, the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan adopts a systems approach to address community needs and support healthy places and healthy people. This will be underpinned by a Community Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee consisting of internal and external stakeholders who play a pivotal role in improving population health outcomes across the municipality. The Steering Committee will work in partnership strategically to implement and evaluate mutually reinforcing activities across the life of the plan.

The Steering Committee outcomes will be driven by the shared measurement system which will be built from the State of Mildura Rural City Council Report 2017 and its alignment to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes framework five domains of health.

It is acknowledged that these issues are not the only issues impacting on the health and wellbeing of the Mildura municipal community. It is also acknowledged that these priority areas and issues do not sit in isolation from each other, they are intrinsically linked. The intention of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan is to further promote collaborative work practices towards achieving better health and wellbeing outcomes for our entire community.

Domain 1 - Victorians are Healthy and Well

Focus Areas – Physical Health, Mental Health and Health Promotion.

Council's support and advocacy for mental health services is imperative, with mental health recognised as a key issue within the municipality.

Mental health is defined as "a state of well-being in which every individual realises his or her own potential, can cope with the normal stresses of life, can work productively and fruitfully, and is able to make a contribution to her or his community".

(World Health Organisation, 2014, Mental Health: A state of well-being).

In 2014-2015 intentional injuries requiring treatment in our local hospital were more than double the state average. This rate has increased in the 2012-2013 and 2014-2015 reporting period.

Unintentional injuries treated in hospital per 1,000 population, 2014, Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (VAED) and Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (VEMD) (LGA)

Council is committed to:

- supporting the mental wellbeing of all individuals, families and communities at all stages of life
- supporting residents to understand the factors that affect their own mental health and wellbeing and support them to access relevant services
- continue to collaborate with partner organisations on projects and campaigns that promote the mental health and wellbeing of residents.

The impact of excessive alcohol, tobacco and drug use is central to the public health focus of Council. Tobacco use trends in the Mildura Local Government Area show an increase in the proportion of population aged 18+ who are current smokers between the Victorian Population Health Survey periods of 2011-2012 and 2014-2015.

In the Mildura Local Government Area during the 2013-2015 reporting period the proportion of mothers who smoked tobacco during their first 20 weeks of pregnancy was 22.9 percent. This is more than double the State rate of 10.1 percent. *(Victorian Perinatal Data Collection, Consultative on Obstetric and Paediatric Mortality and Morbidity, commissioned through HOS data – May 2017)*

Council is committed to:

- supporting agencies to share information and work together on actions related to harmful alcohol and drug use and the dangers of smoking
- continuing to implement the *Victorian Tobacco Act*, monitoring smoke-free dining and smoke-free outdoor areas and providing education and enforcement in relation to the sale and advertising of tobacco in local premises

- continuing to work in partnership with organisations in relation to the social costs caused through alcohol and other drug use, with a focus on behavioural change that challenges social norms, attitudes and beliefs.

Increasing participation in physical activity has health, social and economic benefits including improved physical health, reduced risk of chronic disease, reduced risk of becoming overweight or obese, the development of stronger social connections and improved mental wellbeing (*State of Mildura Report 2017*).

Healthy eating and access to affordable nutritious food is vital to health and wellbeing. Promoting healthy eating initiatives helps our community understand the importance of good nutrition and maintaining a healthy weight.

Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2013-2017 achievements include:

- Engagement with local primary schools to encourage active transport through the installation and promotion of 'Ride and Stride Zones'
- Developed an area-based approach to School Breakfast Programs, resulting in the formation of the Mildura Region School Breakfast Partnership which operates in fifteen schools and provides over 1000 nutritious breakfasts to our children and youth per week
- Working with local food business to reformulate food products and make the healthier choice the easier choice for everyone through the development of the Healthy Catering Handbook
- Engagement with Early Years Services, schools and workplaces to empower them to make change to the environments in which they learn, work and play through implementing the Cancer Council Victoria Achievement Program.

Council is committed to:

- improving food literacy, knowledge and skills across the municipality
- continuing to work in partnership to increase access to nutritious food and the opportunity for people to produce, sell and buy local food
- ensuring effective governance of food safety and hygiene preparation practices across the municipality and according to the requirements of the *Food Act 1984*.

Domain 1 - Victorians are healthy and well

Our goal is to improve the prospects of long term health and wellbeing in our community.

Strategy

Promote and support healthy environments and positive health.

Action	Lead	Partners
Lead collaboration to develop a plan to respond to existing and emerging health and wellbeing issues and trends.	Community Health and Wellbeing Steering Group	Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop a local Community Based Suicide Prevention Activity Plan.	Murray Primary Health Network	Council headspace Mildura Base Hospital
Lead collaboration to undertake an analysis of support-service needs around drug and alcohol use and develop a plan to address these needs.	Sunraysia Community Health Services	Council Relevant stakeholder groups
Increase community capacity to understand and respond to mental health and wellbeing in young people.	Northern Mallee Mental Health Alliance Mallee Primary Health network	Council Mildura Base Hospital NMCP Executive and partner agencies Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop activities to improve the coordination and integration of community youth services to promote youth health and wellbeing, self-care and resilience based on the Youth Engagement Strategy 2015-2018.	Council	Health service providers Relevant stakeholder groups

Increase participation rates for maternal and child health services and immunisations for all.	Council	Mallee District Aboriginal Services Relevant stakeholder groups
Undertake a settings based approach to the promotion of healthy eating and physical activity.	Sunraysia Community Health Services	Council Schools Workplaces Early Years Services
Engage in local Early Years Services in the promotion of oral health	Sunraysia Community Health Services	Council Early Years Services Dental Health Services Victoria Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop a municipal partnership and Working Group to address the rising smoking rates in the region through environmental, settings based and individual approaches.	Sunraysia Community Health Services	Council Health service providers Mallee District Aboriginal Services
Improve the food supply to the priority settings of Early Years Services, schools, workplaces and sporting clubs through targeted partnerships with suppliers and the Victorian Healthy Eating Advisory Service.	Sunraysia Community Health Services	Council Early Years Services Schools Workplaces Sporting Clubs Food Suppliers Healthy Eating Advisory Service

Related Strategies and Plans

Youth Engagement Strategy
Early Years Plan
Community Access and Inclusion Plan
State Food Strategy
Healthy Ageing Strategy

Domain 2 - Victorians are Safe and Secure

Focus areas – Impacts of family violence, community safety and homelessness

Council has taken a very strong stance against family violence in our community. *“Family and domestic violence is any violent, threatening, coercive or controlling behaviour that occurs in current or past family, domestic or intimate relationships. This includes not only physical injury, but also direct or indirect threats, sexual assault, emotional and psychological torment, economic control, damage to property, social isolation and any behaviour which causes a person to live in fear”* (Department of Health and Human Services website).

Family violence incidents (per 1,000 population) Sept 2014-Oct 2015, Corporate Statistics, Victoria Police (LGA)

Mildura 30.9	Victoria 12.4	Rank 2
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Family Violence is a complex issue that will require a coordinated and committed approach by a very broad range of stakeholders and community to address at our local level.

Council, as a White Ribbon accredited organisation, will continue to:

- Maintain accreditation for the White Ribbon Workplace Program
- Recognise White Ribbon Day and International Women’s Day and conduct events to raise awareness with our staff and community at these times
- Provide family violence leave and support to staff through our Enterprise Agreement
- Provide training to staff on family violence
- Work with new and existing White Ribbon ambassadors to develop avenues to engage more broadly in the organisation and community
- Review Council’s Gender Equity Policy
- Introduce and mentor new workplaces through the White Ribbon accreditation process.

“While child abuse and family violence are generally considered separately, it is important to acknowledge the inter-relationship between family violence and child abuse. These forms of violence often coexist, with violence being directed towards both women and children.” (Department of Health and Human Services website).

A substantiated child maltreatment notification is made if a child has been, is being, or is likely to be abused, neglected or otherwise harmed. *“The impact of child abuse can have life-long consequences and result in poorer mental and physical health.”* (State of Mildura Rural City Report 2017).

Child abuse substantiation* per 1,000 children aged 0-17 years, 2014-2015

Mildura **17.6** Victoria 11.4 Rank 16

Time Trend - **increasing rates** of child abuse substantiation 2010-2011 and 2014-2015

Mildura **13.2** Victoria 6.7 Rank 9

The Victorian Government announced that Mildura is a pilot site for the newly created Support and Safety Hubs (Hubs). The Hubs are designed for women, children, young people and older people experiencing family violence, families in need of support with the care, wellbeing and development of children and young people, and perpetrators of family violence.

Council is committed to:

- working in partnership with key stakeholders, agencies and the community to address and reduce our child maltreatment statistics
- playing a vital role in the delivery of Mildura's Support and Safety Hub

Strong relationships can be observed between people feeling safe in their community and the overall health and wellbeing of a community. "When individuals feel safe within their communities, they are more likely to connect with friends, engage with other community members and experience greater levels of trust and social connection. When individuals perceive their neighbourhoods to be unsafe, they experience higher levels of anxiety and interactions between members of the community become more limited, placing them at risk of social isolation and mental illness." (*State of Mildura Rural City Report 2017*)

Through the Hands Up Mallee Community Conversations, feeling safe was a common aspiration for the future of our community. A measure of feeling safe is asking people if they feel safe while walking alone during the day and after dark.

Perceptions of safety - walking alone after dark, 2015

Mildura **47.5%**

Victoria 55.1%

Time Trend – Mildura LGA experienced a decrease in feelings of safety after dark between 2011-2015

Mildura **56.1%**

Victoria 70.3%

Council will continue to promote community safety and develop initiatives in partnership to address crime based on the Community Safety Strategy 2015-2018.

"Adequate housing meets people's essential needs for shelter, security and privacy. Shelter is recognised throughout the world as a basic human right. Homelessness is one

18

of the most potent examples of disadvantage in the community, and one of the most important markers of social exclusion.” (Department of Health and Human Services, 2017).

Mallee Accommodation Support Program (MASP) states that homelessness occurs when a person or family does not have access to a safe, secure, affordable home. This might represent people staying in temporary accommodation such as refuges, emergency accommodation, caravan parks and/or staying with friends/family temporarily, couch surfing, and/or staying in inappropriate and unsafe dwellings. Community awareness and service sector coordination is essential.

Council is committed to continuing to promote housing as a fundamental component of community health and wellbeing.

(insert image)

Domain 2 - Victorians are Safe and Secure

Our goal is that all community members feel safe and can live their life free from abuse and violence

Strategy

Reduce prevalence and impact of family violence and improve perceptions of community safety.

Action	Lead	Partners
Promote an integrated approach to drive improved coordination of family violence services across the municipality.	Northern Mallee Family Violence Executive	Council NMCP Executive and partner agencies
Support and contribute to the implementation of the Victorian Government local Support and Safety Hub pilot.	Family Safety Victoria Agency	Council Relevant stakeholder groups
Continue to work towards an integrated community approach to reduce substantiated child maltreatment incidents.	Department of Health and Human Services Children and Youth Area Partnerships	Council NMCP Executive and partner agencies Department Health and Human Services
Support implementation of the actions outlined in the Loddon Mallee Action Plan 2016-2019.	Northern Mallee Family Violence Executive	Council Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop, implement and review CCTV Strategy.	Council	Victoria Police Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop, implement and review Public Lighting Strategy.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups
Investigate and support service delivery models of social housing that meet the	Mallee Accommodation Support Program	Council Haven

community needs for emergency and longer term accommodation.	NMPC Executive and partner agencies
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Related Strategies and Plans
 Gender Equity Policy
 Community Safety Plan
 Municipal Emergency Management Strategy

Domain 3 - Victorians have the Capabilities to Participate

Focus Areas - Learning and Education, Developmental Vulnerability and Employment

Education and training are important opportunities for individuals to realise their full potential, develop their health literacy and make positive and informed choices about their health. While many Mildura residents enjoy the local schools, libraries and learning hubs, others talk about the difficulties in accessing local, appropriate and relevant education and training.

Supporting children's optimal physical, emotional and social health in the early years has long lasting positive effects on their health, social and emotional wellbeing and achievements throughout life. The benefits include increased school success, increased future productivity and reduced cost of health and public services. Physical and social developmental deficits or delays may be more difficult to address as children grow older.

In 2015 10.4 percent of children in their first year of school in the Mildura Local Government Area (LGA) were developmentally vulnerable in two or more domains. These figures had improved significantly since 2012 when 13.4 percent of the children were vulnerable in two or more domains. Over both time periods Mildura LGA children were faring worse than their Victorian counterparts, although the 'gap' had decreased. (*State of Mildura Report 2017*)

Young people who are not engaged in education, employment or training are at greater risk of poor health, depression or early parenthood. A school leaver's range of options can include work, university or vocational training and many combinations of work and education. This measure is included to quantify young people's engagement in education, training and work (*Department of Health and Human Services 2017*).

The activities of young people who have left school have been sourced from the 2011 Australian Bureau of Statistics. This data describes the level of engagement in work and study activities of 15-19 year-olds who are not attending school. This population can be categorised into three major groups:

- fully engaged school leavers are defined as those who are involved in work and/or non-school study on a full-time basis
- disengaged school leavers are defined as those who are not involved in any work or study activities at all and
- the remaining school leavers are defined as partly engaged.

The percentage of fully engaged and disengaged school leavers are presented below.

Fully Engaged School Leavers (aged 15-19 years), 2011

Mildura 54.2%

Victoria 72.0%

Fully Disengaged School Leavers (aged 15-19 years), 2011

Mildura 25.1%

Victoria 15.0%

Destination of School Leavers rates (based on 2011 Census data), Community Indicators Victoria (LGA)

Council will continue to:

- Work and respond to improving health, development, learning and wellbeing for children aged 0-8 through the Mildura Best Start Partnership
- Advocate for funding to enable all young people to access quality and affordable education; and
- Improve access to youth-friendly information and support services for young people and their families.

Domain 3 - Victorians have the Capabilities to Participate

Our goal is to create an economic and learning environment that supports people to realise their full potential

Strategy

Increase community access to a diversity of high quality lifelong learning, vocational and employment opportunities.

Actions

Action	Lead	Partners
Lead collaboration to build resilience in families and strengthen parenting skills to promote healthy child development.	Northern Mallee Community Partnership	Council NMPC Executive and partner agencies
Lead collaboration through the development of a local priority agreed activity plan, to reduce children and youth vulnerability.	Northern Mallee Community Partnership Children and Youth Area Partnerships	Council Department of Health and Human Services Relevant stakeholder groups
Facilitate the participation of young people in decisions that affect them and facilitate actions they may take to implement these.	Hands Up Mallee Youth Leadership	Council NMPC Executive and partner agencies Relevant stakeholder groups
Improve how we engage and re-engage young people to increase levels of education retention and completion.	Council	NMPC Executive and partner agencies Northern Mallee Local Learning and Employment Network Department of Education Schools
Facilitate sustainable employment opportunities to encourage education advancement and future employment	Council	Jobs Victoria Employment Network Job Service Providers

choices through the Jobs Victoria Real Jobs Real People Employment Program.		Local employers Education and Training Providers
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Related Strategies and Plans

Youth Engagement Strategy
Real Jobs Real People Employment
Program
Municipal Early Years Plan

Domain 4 - Victorians are Connected to Culture and Community

Focus Areas – Socially Engaged and Inclusive Communities, Connection to Culture and Community, Increase Tolerance of Diversity

We live in a diverse and vibrant community. Council is committed to creating a socially inclusive and connected community in which all members feel valued and have the opportunity to fully participate in life. Knowing your neighbour, having a secure job, playing sport at a local club and having your voice heard at a community event all help us to connect with others and support good health and wellbeing.

Issues that compound and *“hinder social inclusion in Australian communities are poverty and low income, lack of access to the job market, limited social supports and networks, the effect of the local neighbourhood and exclusion from education, childcare, health and transport services”* (Australian Social Inclusion Board, 2012). Based on this understanding increasing acceptance of diversity in our community is a priority.

Proportion of adults who thought multiculturalism definitely made life in their area better, 2014

Mildura 38.4%

Victoria 55.4%

Council is committed to:

- Promoting and fostering social inclusion through policy and strategies that engage with and support the needs of our diverse community, including but not limited to culturally diverse communities, new and emerging communities, our Indigenous community, gender and sexuality diverse, our aged community and those with a disability and
- Working with partner organisations to improve collaboration between services and community.

“Statistics state that as at 2012 approximately four percent of the Mildura Local Government Area residents are of an Aboriginal or Torres Strait Islander descent, making the area home to the second largest population of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people in regional Victoria. Local community knowledge indicates that the population is significantly higher than what is captured through census data” (MRCC Reconciliation Action Plan).

Council is committed to:

- Working towards improving the health, social and economic outcomes for Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people and communities through our commitment to reconciliation and through our Reconciliation Action Plan.
- Continuing to lead and encourage campaigns that positively support diversity in our community such as Refugee Welcome Zone and Racism it Stops with Me.
- Continuing to support activities that build community and social networks and address barriers to accessing sport and recreation activities.
- Continuing to create opportunities for engagement and participation in arts and heritage that contribute to cultural vitality and viability in our community.
- Continuing to foster and support the arts, culture and heritage organisations through collaborations, policy and strategies that engage with, promote and support the needs of our diverse community

"It has long been recognised that open spaces are important for our wellbeing. Open spaces provide opportunities for a wide range of social interactions and pursuits that support community health and wellbeing. They allow people to interact with their natural environment and provide habitats for wildlife. They can also be an important expression of social and cultural identity." (Planning and Open Space 2008).

Open spaces include the riverfront, parks and gardens, recreation ovals and open spaces, tracks and trails and footpaths. Council will continue to maintain, upgrade and plan for the future of our community's open spaces.

Council is committed to:

- Managing existing townships and areas and planning for new growth areas with the health and wellbeing of the community in mind; and
- Building on and supporting community spaces that provide opportunities for social connection.

Domain 4 - Victorians are Connected to Culture and Community

Our goal is that all people are socially engaged, live in inclusive communities and can celebrate and connect with their culture and identity.

Strategy

Increase engagement with and connection to community and culture.

Action	Lead	Partners
Develop, implement and review the Public Open Space Strategy 2017-2022.	Council	Relevant State Government Agencies Relevant stakeholder groups
Collaborate with local sport and active recreation settings to address barriers to participation by vulnerable groups within our community.	Council	Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Relevant stakeholder groups
Embed 'Healthy by Design' principles into Council planning processes to support active living in existing and future growth areas.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups
Improve collaboration between Council, services, agencies and culturally diverse communities in the municipality.	Council	Sunraysia Mallee Ethnic Communities Council Relevant stakeholder groups
Continue to pursue reconciliation alongside the Aboriginal community and	Council	Aboriginal Action Committee Mallee District Aboriginal Services

advocate for targeted services to meet their health and support needs.		Relevant stakeholder groups
Target services and build community capacity to support vulnerable members of our community, emphasising prevention and early intervention.	Northern Mallee Community Partnership	NMCP Executive and Partner agencies
Implement outcomes from reviewing Council's role in aged care and disability support services, in the context of the national sector reforms with the aim of facilitating continued access to relevant quality services.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop, implement and review the Social Inclusion Strategy 2018-2022.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups

Related Strategies and Plans

Reconciliation Action Plan
 Arts, Culture and Heritage Strategy
 Community Access and Inclusion Plan
 Events Strategy
 Recreation Strategy
 Healthy Ageing Strategy
 Emergency Management Plan

Domain 5 - Victoria is liveable

Focus Areas – Resilient and Liveable Communities, Adaption to Climate Change, Access to Sustainable Built and Natural Environments, Environmental Sustainability.

We rely on our natural environment to provide us with clean and safe air, water, food and soil and to protect us from disease and natural disasters.

Health and climate are naturally linked and a changing climate affects the social and environmental elements of health and wellbeing including clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure housing.

To prevent and respond to these challenges, it is important that communities, businesses and Council understand and appreciate the region's natural heritage and work to reduce their environmental footprint. We can do this by conserving and promoting our natural resources and spaces, increasing energy efficiency, recycling, preventing pollution and managing waste.

The community has expressed a strong desire to connect more with nature, preserve our natural heritage for coming generations and to live in a more sustainable manner. Local residents have drawn a strong connection between the health of the environment and their own sense of health and wellbeing.

Mildura Rural City Council currently plans for and reduces the impacts of climate change through:

- implementation of the *Municipal Emergency Management Strategy*
- delivery of environmental education awareness activities
- managing our environment to improve the resilience of key assets including our public open spaces, native vegetation and water and
- implementation of the *Energy Management Plan* to reduce Council's greenhouse gas emissions.

Council will continue to protect and enhance the natural environment for the use, wellbeing and enjoyment of current and future generations.

Domain 5 - Victoria is Liveable

Our goal is that we belong to resilient communities that understand and value our natural environment.

Strategy

Increase community resilience to the impact of climate change.

Actions	Lead	Partners
Develop, implement and review Waste Resource and Recovery Plan 2018-2023.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop, implement and review a long term strategy for the management of waste.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups
Develop, implement and review Municipal Emergency Management Strategy 2017-2020.	Council	Relevant stakeholder groups

Related Strategies and Plans

Vegetation Management Plan
Litter Strategy
Environmental Education Plan
Public Open Space Strategy
Energy Management Plan
Invasive Plants and Animals Plan

Monitoring, Reporting and Evaluation

The Community Health and Wellbeing Plan outlines the strategic health and wellbeing goals that Council will work towards over the next four years. Monitoring, reporting and evaluation are required to understand effectiveness, identify areas for improvement and learning and to enhance the evidence for current and future work in this space.

Council's reporting framework will outline the measures that will be used to monitor and evaluate the impact of work across the Victorian Public Health Wellbeing Outcomes Framework five domains of health:

- Victorians are healthy and well
- Victorians are safe and secure
- Victorians have the capabilities to participate
- Victorians are connected to culture and community
- Victoria is liveable

A Community Health and Wellbeing Steering Committee consisting of internal and external representatives will work in partnership strategically in the implementation and evaluation of the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan 2017-2021.

The Steering Committee outcomes will be driven by the shared measurement system which will be built from the State of Mildura Rural City Council Report 2017 and it's alignment to the Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes framework, five domains of health.

Appendix 1

The Context

This appendix provides an overview of the legislative and policy context encompassing the Community Health and Wellbeing Plan.

State Context

Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2015-2019 and Outcomes Framework

Under the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* the State has a significant role to play in promoting and protecting the public health and wellbeing of all Victorians. The State Plan has an explicit aim to reduce inequalities in health and wellbeing. It identifies challenges to the health status of Victorians including:

- Increases in some risks to health and only limited or no improvement in others, particularly obesity and physical abuse associated with alcohol
- The increasing impact of chronic disease
- Persistent inequalities in health status
- Demographic trends that require new approaches including population ageing, the need for an increased focus on the health and wellbeing of health and families
- Environmental sustainability and health protection including the impact of climate change, the spread of communicable diseases and the emergence of new diseases, and the need for communicable disease planning and preparedness.

The State Plan places a strong emphasis on prevention and early intervention that is supported by a number of current State Government policies and initiatives that include:

- Implementation of the Victorian Royal Commission into Family Violence recommendations
- Victorian gender equality strategy (under development)
- Roadmap for Reform: strong families, safe children
- Victoria's 10-year mental health plan and the Victorian Suicide Prevention Framework
- Victorian state disability plan 2017-20 and the National Disability Insurance Scheme
- Aboriginal Social and Emotional Wellbeing Framework.

The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Framework* provides a new approach to monitoring and reporting on collective efforts to improve health and wellbeing over the long term. It uses a whole of government approach and includes five domains:

- Victorians are healthy and well
- Victorians are safe and secure
- Victorians are connected to culture and community
- Victorians have the capabilities to participate and
- Victoria is liveable.

The Outcomes Framework provides a comprehensive set of public health and wellbeing outcomes, indicators, targets and measures for our major population health and wellbeing priorities and their determinants. Where data is available, the Outcomes Framework also enables assessment of health and wellbeing inequalities.

VicHealth Fair Foundations Framework for Health Equity

The Victorian Health Promotion Foundation or VicHealth also has a focus on equity and how our individual choices are shaped by the environment around us.

Fair Foundations: *The VicHealth Framework for Health Equity* is a planning tool for health promotion policy and practice. It outlines the social determinants of health inequities, suggesting entry points for action.

VicHealth Action Agenda for Health Promotion

The 2016 Action Agenda update sets out priorities for the 2016-2019 period. Gender, youth and community themes are priorities to frame future work. The five strategic imperatives identified in the plan are:

- Promoting healthy eating
- Encouraging regular physical activity
- Preventing tobacco use
- Preventing harm from alcohol
- Improving mental wellbeing.

Health Priorities framework

The *Victorian Health Priorities Framework 2012-2022* articulates the long-term planning and development priorities for Victoria's health system. This framework identifies that prevention is an important component for 'improving every Victorian's health status and health experiences' and responding to pressures that face the health care system.

Population growth and ageing, along with the increasing prevalence of chronic disease and the escalating costs of health care technology, have led to increasing attention at all levels of government on how to keep the population well.

Legislation

The *Local Government Act 1989* and the *Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* outline Council's responsibility for improving the quality of life for communities.

The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008* (the Act) aims to help achieve state-wide benefits through a consistent approach to planning across both state and local governments. The Act is a major legislative driver for improving the health and wellbeing of Victorians.

The Act recognises that the State has a significant role in promoting and protecting the public health and wellbeing of people living in Victoria and clearly defines public health to be:

- What we, as a society, can do collectively to assure the conditions in which people can be healthy
- About prevention, promotion and protection rather than treatment
- About populations rather than individuals
- About the factors and behaviour that cause illness and injury and
- About ways inequalities can be reduced.

At least 29 different Victorian Acts and regulations attribute responsibilities to councils in contributing to protecting the health of their communities, and keeping people well. Some of the most recent Victorian legislation that will influence public health is the *Improving Cancer Outcomes Act 2014* and amendments to the *Tobacco Act 1987*.

Victorian legislation that is particularly important for health planning includes:

- The *Charter of Human Rights and Responsibilities Act 2006*. This places specific legal obligations on public authorities such as local councils with regard to human rights. The Charter can be seen to reinforce the role of the Public Health and Wellbeing Plan because it explicitly requires consideration of equity in Council decision making.
- The *Climate Change Act 2010* creates a legal framework for actions and initiatives on this issue. Local government is specifically required to address climate change in the preparation of Health Plans as part of the effort to mitigate the risks.
- The *Planning and Environment Act 1987* and the *Environment Protection Act 1970* recognise that the built and natural environment — buildings, streetscapes, parks and gardens — influence our quality of life. The Acts impose controls to prevent and minimise damage, and protect human health and ecosystems

Other legislation that protects the health and safety of Victorians include community safety laws that focus on the protection and care of children, road safety, safe drinking water, food and liquor regulation and controlling use and access to drugs and poisons. Health and wellbeing is promoted and supported through legislation such as the *Transport Integration Act 2010* and the *Sport and Recreation Act 2008*.

Climate Change

Health and climate are intrinsically linked and a changing climate affects the social and environmental determinants of health and wellbeing — clean air, safe drinking water, sufficient food and secure housing.

The direct impact of climate change is likely to result from extreme weather events such as flooding or heatwaves. The indirect health impacts are likely to occur after an event and can exacerbate existing health inequalities.

There are often additional benefits associated with actions designed to reduce the impact of climate change or promote health and wellbeing. For example, if a small shift to active travel (walking and cycling) and public transport was achieved in Australia, greenhouse gas emissions could be reduced by up to two-thirds for peak travel and by about 95 percent for off-peak travel. The joint potential to improve our environment and reduce chronic diseases is significant.

Royal Commission into Family Violence

The State Government's Royal Commission into Family Violence provided practical recommendations to prevent and address family violence, based on an examination of the current service system and best practice approaches.

Recommendation 94 is that:

The Victorian Government amend section 26 of the Public Health and Wellbeing Act 2008 (Vic)—which requires that councils prepare a municipal public health and wellbeing plan —to require councils to report on the measures the council proposes to take to reduce family violence and respond to the needs of victims. Alternatively, the Victorian Government could amend section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989 (Vic) — which requires each council to prepare a council plan — to require councils to include these measures in their council plan (rather than their health and wellbeing plans) [within 12 months].

Council will include measures to reduce the incidents of family violence across the municipality in the integrated Community and Council Plan 2017-21. This will demonstrate a commitment to work with the community to act on the Royal Commission's recommendations and work in partnership with the community to reduce the incidence of family violence.

National Context

National Health Priority Areas

The National Health Priority Areas (NHPAs) are diseases and conditions that Australian governments have chosen for focused attention because they contribute significantly to the burden of illness and injury in the Australian community. The Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW) publishes information on the NHPAs and their associated indicators and risk

factors across the Australian population with a focus on particular population groups of interest.

The 9 NHPAs are:

- Cancer control (first set of conditions, 1996)
- Cardiovascular health (first set of conditions, 1996)
- Injury prevention and control (first set of conditions, 1996)
- Mental health (first set of conditions, 1996)
- Diabetes mellitus (added 1997)
- Asthma (added 1999)
- Arthritis and musculoskeletal conditions (added 2002)
- Obesity (added 2008)
- Dementia (added 2012).

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Australian Social Inclusion Board, 2012

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Destination of School Leavers rates (based on 2011 Census data), Community Indicators Victoria (LGA)

http://www.communityindicators.net.au/wellbeing_reports/mildura Accessed 09/04/2017

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Mildura LGA Profile VicHealth Indicators Survey 2011, 2015

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Unintentional injuries treated in hospital per 1,000 population, 2014, Victorian Admitted

Source: Victorian Injury Surveillance Unit (VISU) using data sourced from Victorian Admitted Episodes Dataset (2014-2015) and Victorian Emergency Minimum Dataset (2014)

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World Health Organisation, 2014, Mental Health: A state of well-being

Source: <https://www2.health.vic.gov.au/about/publications/policiesandguidelines/Mildura%20ORC> Accessed 13/03/2017

14.2 ENERGY MANAGEMENT PLAN 2017-2021

File Number: 15/03/01
Officer: General Manager Community

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council endorsement of the Mildura Rural City Council Draft Energy Management Plan 2017-2021.

2. Recommendation

That Council adopt the Draft Energy Management Plan 2017-2021.

3. Background

In 2007 Mildura Rural City Council (Council) developed a Greenhouse Action Plan to address rising energy usage and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The Action Plan identified a range of activities to achieve a 20 percent reduction in 2005-06 emissions by the year 2011-12. The Energy Management Plan developed in 2012 expanded on the Greenhouse Action Plan by considering the financial benefits of reducing energy consumption.

This plan detailed a broad range of actions that considered both the environmental and financial benefits to Council. The target of a 10 percent reduction on 2011-12 electricity consumption levels was met in the first year of the plan. The development of this Plan involved a review of the Energy Management Plan 2012-17 and identification of actions to build on the achievements of the previous plans.

The Energy Management Plan 2017-2021 provides Council with a framework for the collaborative management of energy consumption and sets targets for three key Council areas:

- Buildings and facilities
- Street public lighting
- Fleet.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

This Plan has been developed in consultation with the various branches involved in the delivery of the action plan including Community Futures, Asset Services, Financial Services, Parks and Waste Services, Works and Infrastructure Services, Corporate Administration and Information Systems.

The Energy Management Plan was on public exhibition for comment and feedback from 30 June 2017 to 28 July 2017. A media release outlining achievements to date and seeking comments on the draft plan was distributed during the public exhibition period. No comments or feedback was received.

5. Discussion

This Plan aims to provide Council with a framework for the long-term strategic management of electricity, gas and fuel consumption within Council operations and in the broader community. Effective management of these energy sources will minimise Council's greenhouse gas emissions and the costs involved with energy usage, thus demonstrating a commitment to environmental and economic sustainability.

The Plan documents actions for the effective management of energy across three focus areas within Council; buildings and facilities, street/public lighting and fleet; and actions to support reduced energy consumption within the community.

The objectives of the Energy Management Plan 2017-2021:

- Achieve a 25 percent reduction from the 2015-16 electricity consumption levels in buildings and facilities by 2022.
- Achieve a 15 percent reduction from the 2015-16 electricity consumption levels of street public lighting by 2022.
- Achieve a 10 percent reduction from the 2015-16 fuel consumption levels by 2022.
- Record financial savings generated by energy efficiency projects.
- Record emission reduction from reduced energy consumption.
- Develop and foster an understanding of 'energy efficiency' and increase the participation of Council staff and the community to reduce energy consumption.
- Develop partnerships between Council, local business, neighbouring councils, education facilities and community groups to establish a collaborative approach towards energy conservation.
- Enhance and further promote the culture of energy saving practices in Council.

6. Time Frame

The Energy Management Plan extends for five years and will be reviewed and revised in year five of the plan.

The Draft Energy Management Plan was on public exhibition for comment and feedback from 30 June 2017 to 28 July 2017.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

2.1 Environmental Sustainability

Goals to be achieved:

- conserve natural resources; and
- a well-educated community in regards to environmental sustainability.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

Actions associated with the plan will contribute to reducing the operating cost of various assets.

9. Implications**Policy**

The Draft Energy Management Plan aligns with the below Council policies:

- Environmental Sustainability Policy (CP041)
- Water and Energy Consumptions in Council Buildings and Facilities Policy (OP186).

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal or statutory requirements.

Financial

This plan will be implemented within Council's current operational budget and current level of Capital Works funding (\$170,000 per year).

It is estimated that the implementation of this plan will result in cost saving of \$426,000 per year.

Environmental

It is estimated that the implementation of this plan will result in emission reductions of 1,450tCO₂-e per year.

Social

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1 Draft Energy Management Plan 2017-2021



DRAFT Energy Management Plan

2017 – 2021



Mildura Rural City Council

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

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1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

As a leader in the community, Mildura Rural City Council strives to set an example of responsible environmental management. In 2007 Council developed a Greenhouse Action Plan to address rising energy usage and associated greenhouse gas emissions. The Action Plan identified a range of activities to achieve a 20 percent reduction ~~from~~ 2005-06 emissions by the year 2011-12.

The Energy Management Plan developed in 2012 expanded on the Greenhouse Action Plan by considering the financial benefits of reducing energy consumption. This plan detailed a broad range of actions that considered both the environmental and financial benefits to Council. The target of a

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

10 percent reduction ~~from~~from 2011-12 electricity consumption levels was met in the first year of the plan.

The development of this Plan involved a review of the Energy Management Plan 2012-17 and identification of actions to build on the achievements of the previous plans.

The objectives of the Energy Management Plan 2017-2021:

- Achieve a 25 percent reduction ~~from~~from 2015-16 electricity consumption in buildings and facilities by 2022.
- Achieve a 15 percent reduction ~~from~~from 2015-16 electricity consumption of street/public lighting by 2022.
- Achieve a 10 percent reduction ~~from~~from 2015-16 fuel consumption by 2022.
- Record financial savings generated by energy efficiency projects.
- Record emission reduction from reduced energy consumption.
- Develop and foster an understanding of 'energy efficiency' and increase the participation of Council staff and the community to reduce energy consumption.
- Develop partnerships between Council, local business, neighboring councils, education facilities and community groups to establish a collaborative approach towards energy conservation.
- Enhance and further promote the culture of energy saving practices in Council.

Development of this Plan involved significant consultation with stakeholders to determine the targets and an appropriate action plan to achieve the objectives.

2. INTRODUCTION

2.1 General

Council is located approximately 500 kilometres North West of Melbourne in Victoria, covering an area of 22,214 square kilometres and supports a population of around 53,000. Major centres include Mildura, Red Cliffs, Merbein and Ouyen (see Figure 1). Major Council assets include offices/service centres in Mildura (x2) and Ouyen, depots in Mildura and Red Cliffs, The Mildura Arts Centre and The Alfred Deakin Centre.

Attractions to the Mildura area include its temperate climate, the Murray River and National Parks. The Mildura economy is strong due to the surrounding agricultural base and its location as a regional hub with the Calder highway from Melbourne crossing the Sturt Highway connecting Sydney to Adelaide.

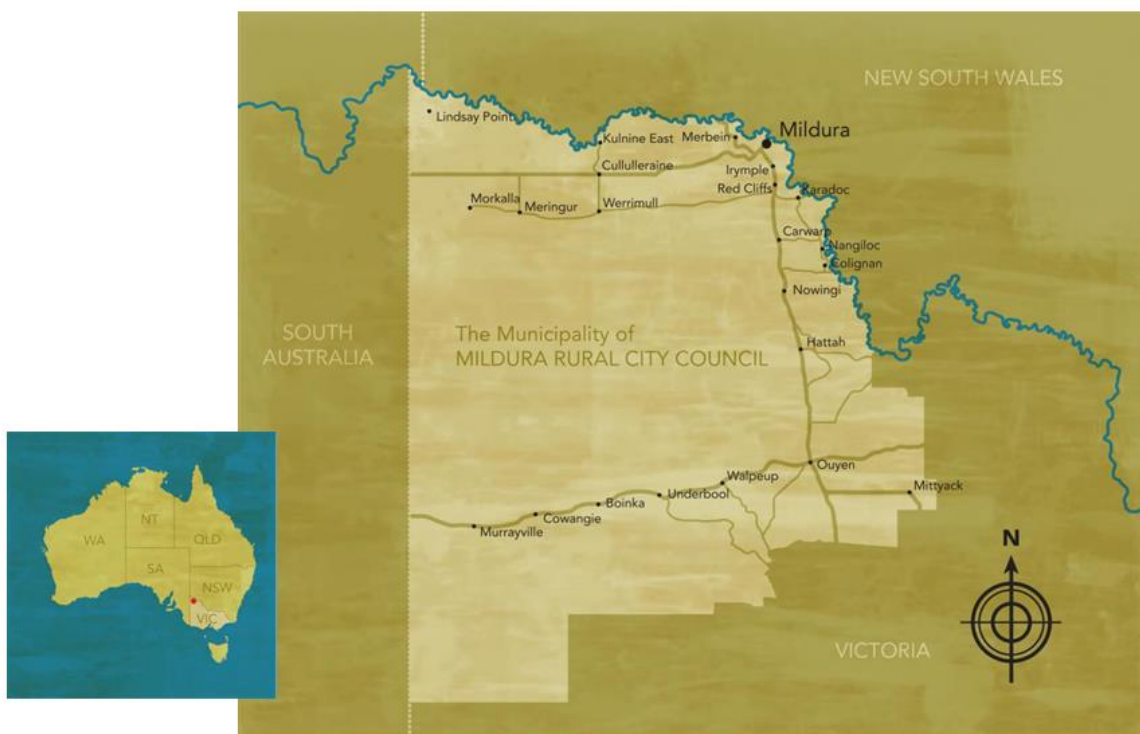


Figure 1. The municipality of Mildura Rural City Council

2.2 Purpose of the Plan

This Plan aims to provide Council with a framework for the long-term strategic management of electricity, gas and fuel consumption within Council operations and in the broader community. Effective management of these energy sources will minimise Council's greenhouse gas emissions and the costs involved with energy usage, thus demonstrating a commitment to environmental and economic sustainability.

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

The Plan documents actions for the effective management of energy across three focus areas within Council; buildings and facilities, street/public lighting and fleet; and actions to support reduced energy consumption within the community.

2.2.1 Environmental

It is widely accepted by the international scientific community that the climate is changing as a result of human activities, particularly burning fossil fuels and land clearing (IPCC, 2007). Australia's climate has warmed in both mean surface air temperature and surrounding sea surface temperature by around 1 C since 1910. There has also been an increase in extreme fire weather, and a longer fire season, across large parts of Australia since the 1970s (BoM, 2016).

Climate change poses a significant threat to natural systems and human settlements. Climate change will require us to plan for extreme weather events and conditions, including heat waves, droughts, floods and severe storms as well as accelerated degradation of infrastructure (Holper, 2002).

In Victoria, the Commonwealth Scientific and Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) predict that by 2030, average daily maximum temperatures are likely to rise by between 0.5 and 1.5°C compared to 1990 and by 2070 they are likely to rise by between 0.7 and 5.0°C (CSIRO, 2006). In Mildura it is anticipated that the average number of days above 35°C per year could increase from 32, up to as many as 73 days a year by 2070.

Council's total greenhouse gas emissions in 2011-12 were 12,225 tCo₂-e (MRCC 2011-12 Greenhouse Gas Inventory), with the areas of public/street lighting, buildings & facilities and fleet accounting for approximately ninety-five percent of this. Reducing the consumption of energy sources used in these areas; electricity and fuel, will have the biggest impact on reducing greenhouse gas emissions. Emission percentages calculated from these areas in 2015-16 is shown in Fig 2 below.

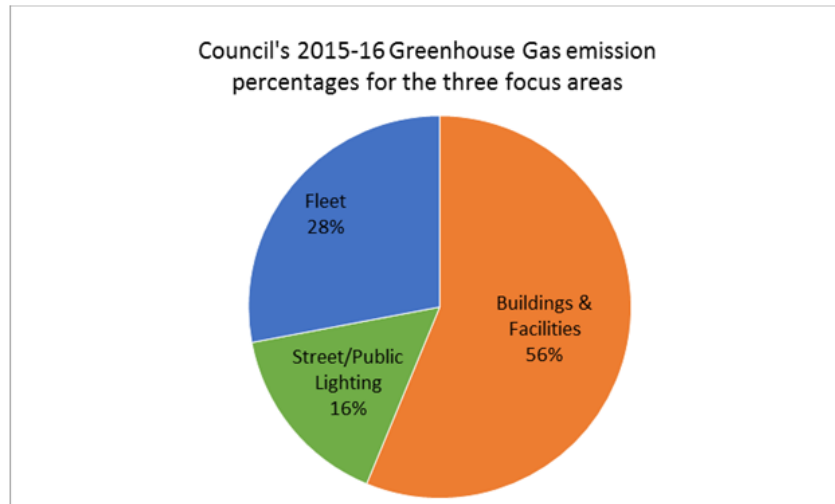


Figure 2. Council's greenhouse gas emissions percentages for public/street lighting, building & facilities and fleet in 2015-16 (Australian Government, 2016).

The operation of Council's buildings and facilities is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions followed by fleet and street/public lighting. Although there are other areas of Council that contribute to emissions, such as waste, water use and air travel, these will not be a focus for emission reduction under this Plan. There are opportunities to reduce emissions in all of the three major emission areas.

2.2.2 Financial

In addition to environmental benefits, a reduction in energy consumption will lead to a reduction in financial costs to Council. In 2015-16 Council's expenditure on the main three energy using areas totaled over 2.41 million dollars. Cost percentages for the three areas are shown in the Fig 2 below.

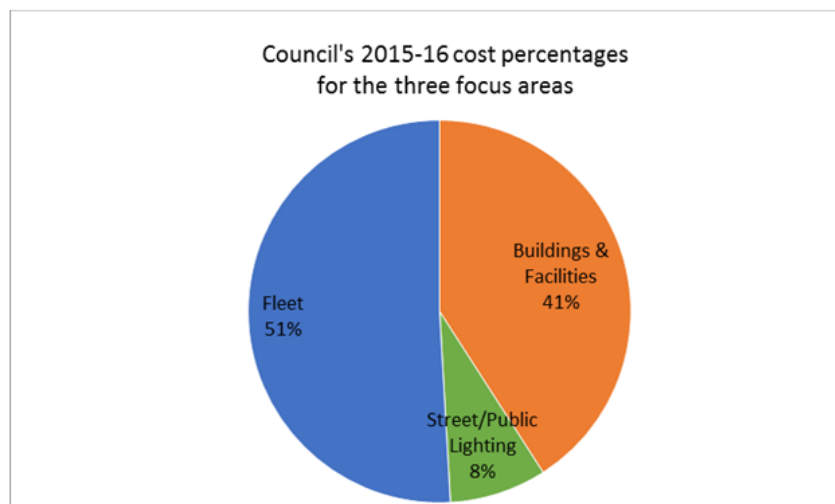


Figure 3. Cost percentages for public/street lighting, building/facilities and fleet in 2015-16.

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

While emissions from fleet make up 28 percent of overall emissions from the three focus areas, the cost of fuel for fleet accounts for over half of the energy costs for Council. Reductions in fuel use will contribute to significant cost savings for Council. Reductions in electricity consumption for our buildings/facilities and street/public lighting will also help reduce costs for Council.

3. BACKGROUND

3.1 Previous Plans

3.1.1 Greenhouse Action Plan 2007-2012

In 2007 Council developed a five year Greenhouse Action Plan with the objective of achieving a 20 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions. This plan included actions from across several Council areas including Fleet, Waste, Street Lighting and Buildings. Council successfully achieved its Greenhouse Gas emissions reduction target in 2011-12 with a reduction of 20.2 percent ~~from~~ 2005-06 levels (see Fig 5 below). Integral to meeting the target was the purchase of GreenPower, which offset 1,793 tCO₂-e from electricity use for Council facilities and public lighting in 2011-12. Without the offsets obtained by purchasing of GreenPower, Council would have reduced their greenhouse gas emissions by 6.5 percent since 2005-06.

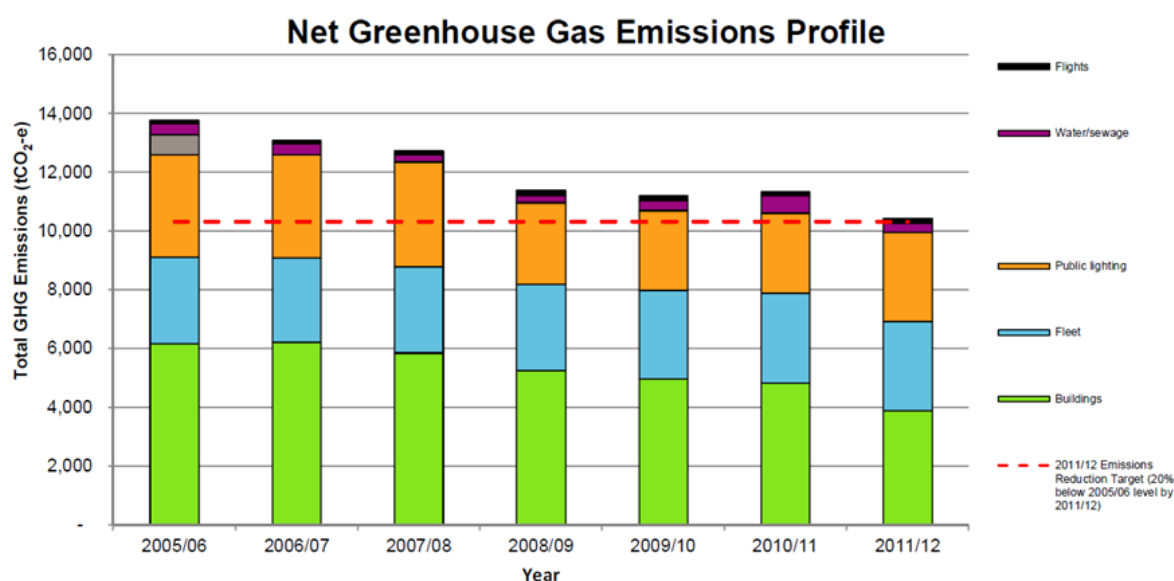


Figure 4. Council's net greenhouse gas emissions profile (dashed red line is the 20 percent reduction target).
Source: 2011-12 Greenhouse Gas Inventory report.

3.1.2 Energy Management Plan 2012-2017

In 2012 the Greenhouse Action Plan was replaced with the Energy Management Plan. The Energy Management Plan 2012-17 focused on the reduction on energy consumption, particularly electricity consumption, and the associated financial savings to Council. Actions from across the organisation in the areas of Fleet, Information Services, Risk, Procurement and Buildings were

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

included. A target of a 10 percent reduction in electricity consumption from 2011-12 level by 2017 was set and achieved in the first year of the plan.

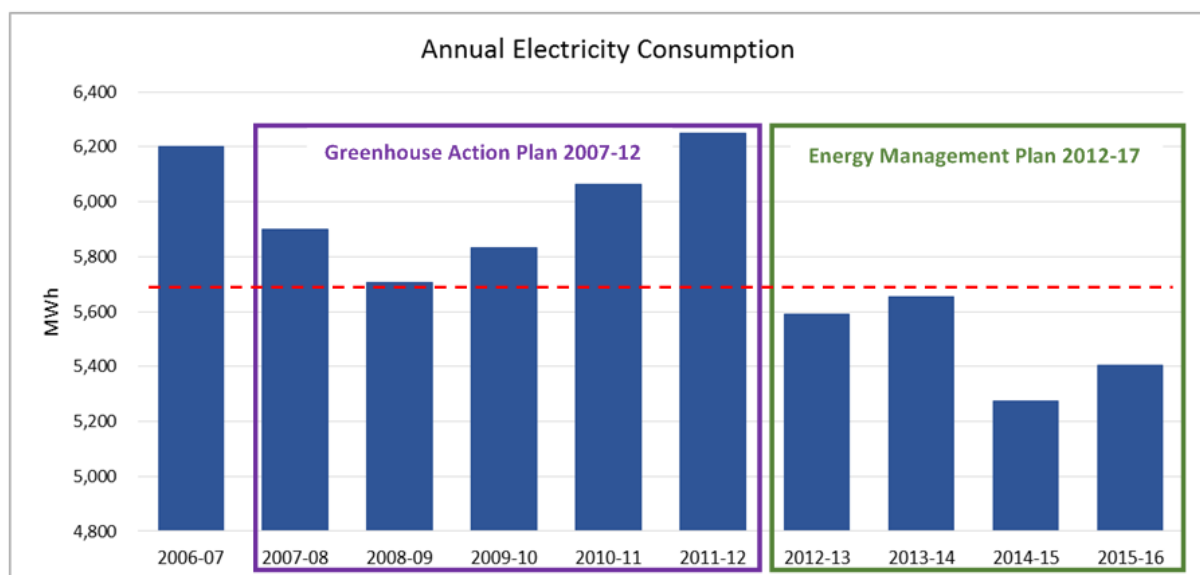


Figure 5. Council's electricity consumption from 2006-07 to 2015-16 showing the target (red dashed line) set under the Energy Management Plan 2012-17.

Much of the reduction in energy consumption during this period can be attributed to the installation of over 355 Kilowatts of solar photovoltaic panels across 17 Council sites as well as solar hot water systems at 30 Council's sites. In addition Council also has solar installed on Council assets that are managed by other organisations such as the Mildura Airport which has a 100 Kilowatts of solar photovoltaic panels.

3.2 Existing Plans, Strategies, Policies and Guidelines

Existing plans, strategies, guidelines and policies that relate to this plan are listed below.

- Environmental Sustainability Policy (CP041)
- Water and Energy Consumption in Council Buildings and Facilities Policy (OP186)
- Water and Energy Consumption Guidelines - Buildings and Facilities
- Fleet Management Policy (OP002)
- Environmental Project Grant Policy (CP038)
- Environmental Project Grant Guidelines

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

- Environmental Education Plan 2015-2019

3.3 Councils Energy Consumption

The majority of Council's energy is consumed across three areas:

- Buildings and facilities
- Street and public lighting
- Fleet

3.3.1 Buildings and facilities

Electricity consumed by Council's buildings and facilities can be broken up into our five highest consuming sites, known as large market sites, and all other sites, known as small market sites. Large and small market sites have different conditions and are determined by the amount of electricity consumed by the site.

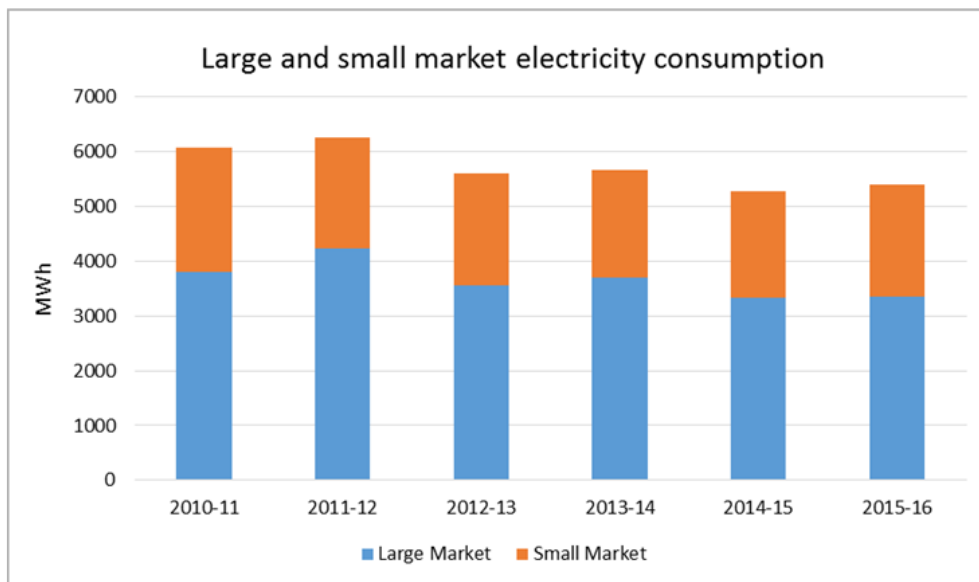


Figure 6. Council's electricity consumption for large market and small market sites.

The five large market sites account for over 60 percent of Council's building and facility electricity consumption. The large market sites are: The Alfred Deakin Centre, Madden Avenue Service Centre, Deakin Avenue Service Centre, the Mildura Arts Centre and the Red Cliffs Depot. These sites are closely monitored and have been a priority for works and behavioral change programs for decreasing electricity consumption. Small market sites are monitored for anomalies in electricity consumption by comparing the previous year's consumption for the quarter to the current year's quarterly consumption.

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

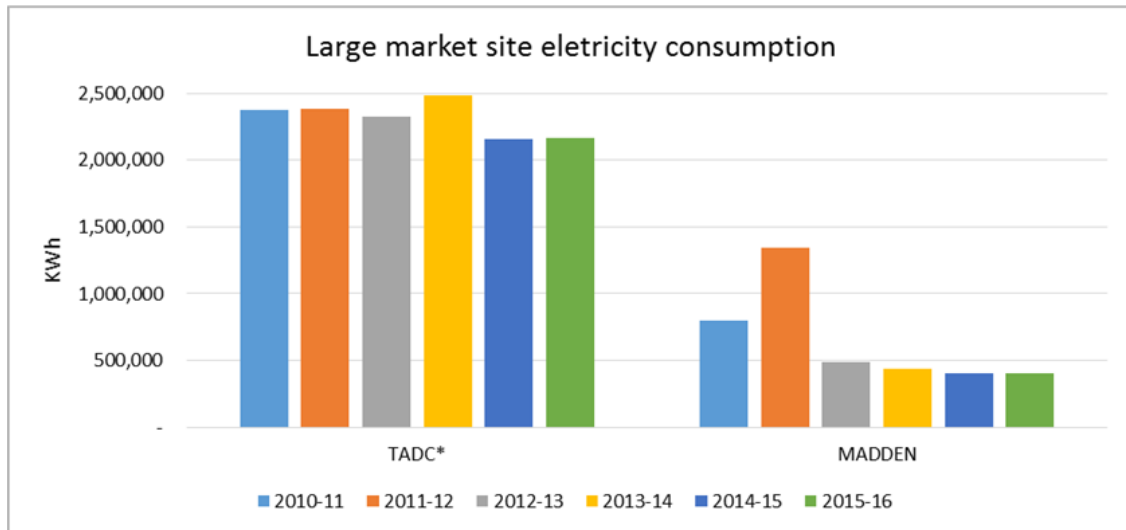


Figure 7. Council's electricity consumption for large market sites (*The Alfred Deakin Centre).

The Alfred Deakin Centre is Council's highest electricity consuming site, with total consumption close to that of all small markets sites combined. Recent energy efficiency works at this site including the installation of solar water pre-heating for the outdoor pool, upgrades to the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning (HVAC) system and the installation of additional solar panels, bringing the total to 85 kilowatts, will help to reduce electricity and gas consumption at this site.

The Madden Avenue Service Centre has recently had a new HVAC system installed along with additional solar panels, increasing the total system to 90 kilowatts. Lighting upgrades and continual behavioral change programs in the near future will help to reduce electricity consumption at this site.

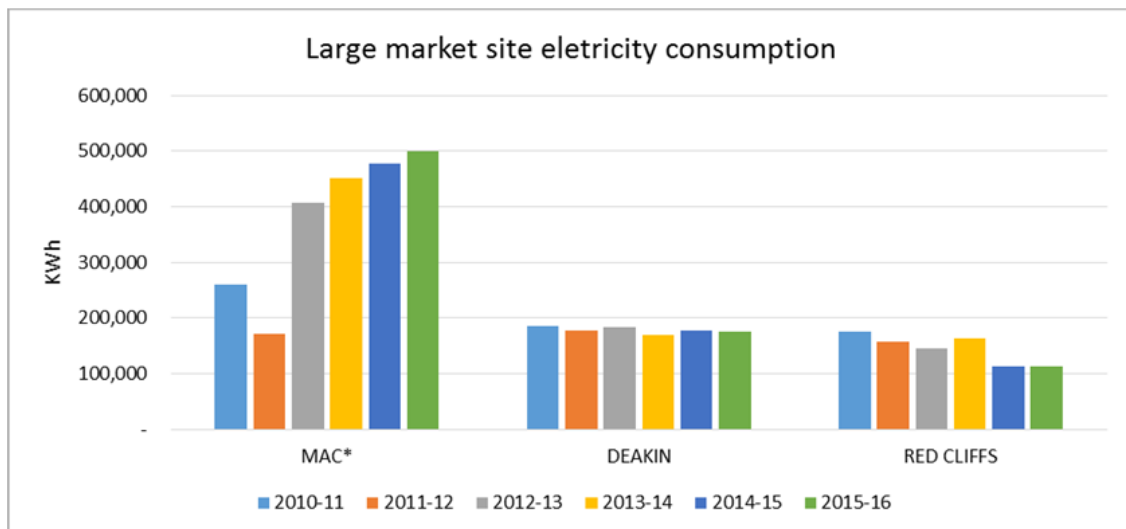


Figure 8. Council's electricity consumption for large market sites (*Mildura Arts Centre).

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

The Mildura Arts Centre (MAC) is the only large market site with an increasing trend in electricity consumption. A recent energy audit at this site will result in additional solar panels being installed and lighting upgrades throughout. Due to the variable nature of the electricity consumption at this site, thorough analysis on the best options for reducing consumption is required.

The Deakin Avenue Service Centre has recently had 27 kilowatts of solar power installed and will be undergoing some lighting upgrades to help reduce electricity consumption. The Red Cliffs Depot is scheduled for an energy audit in 2016-17 which will identify works to be undertaken to reduce electricity consumption.

3.3.2 Street and public lighting

In 2014-15 Council took part in the Lighting the Regions project with the Central Victoria Greenhouse Alliance. This project involved upgrading Council's street lights to energy efficient Light Emitting Diodes (LEDs). The results of this project were realised in the 2015-16 financial year and reduced Council's street and public lighting electricity consumption by over 40 percent (see fig 10 below).

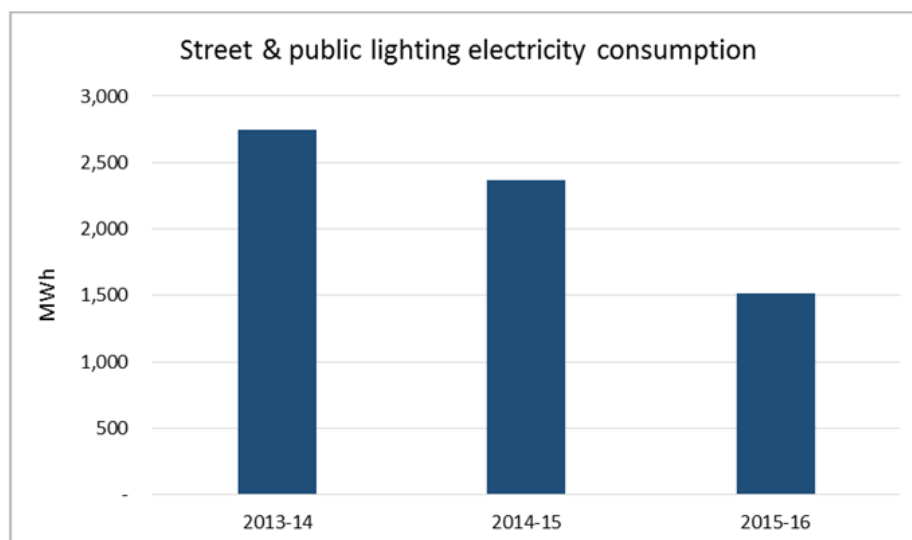


Figure 9. Council's electricity consumption for street and public lighting.

3.3.3 Fleet

Council's fleet includes passenger vehicles, utility and commercial vehicles, heavy trucks, loaders, graders, mowers, trailers and other miscellaneous equipment. Diesel accounts for over 90 percent of Council's fuel consumption. There has been a steady decrease in the consumption of petrol from 2011 to 2016. Diesel consumption is significantly influenced by the amount of funding received on an annual basis to undertake road works.

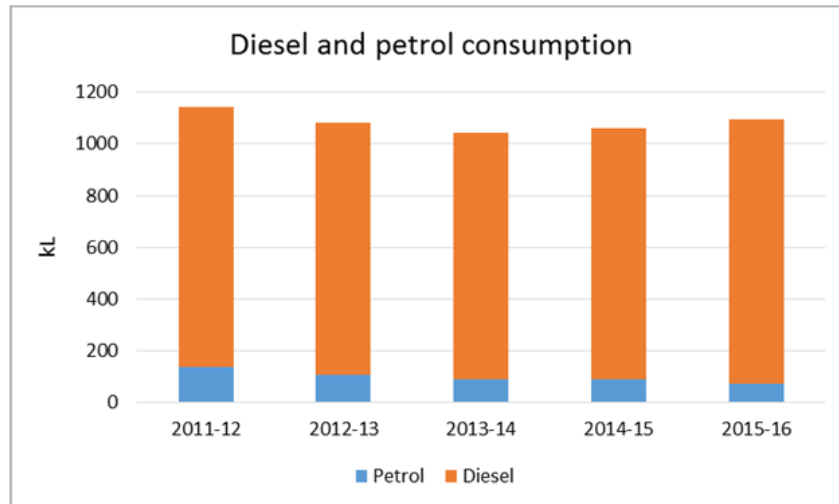


Figure 10. Council's diesel and petrol consumption.

4. Best Practice

4.1 Energy Hierarchy

In achieving further reductions in energy consumption, Council will, where possible, prioritise actions according to an 'Energy Efficiency Hierarchy' also known as the 'Emissions Reduction Hierarchy' (Fig.12). Although there are various forms of this hierarchy its use as a decision making tool is becoming widespread and guides implementation of actions based on outcome qualities. In this approach, the most beneficial savings are achieved through changes to avoid the requirement for energy consumption or substituting power from renewable energy sources, followed by increases in energy efficiency, and finally offsetting.

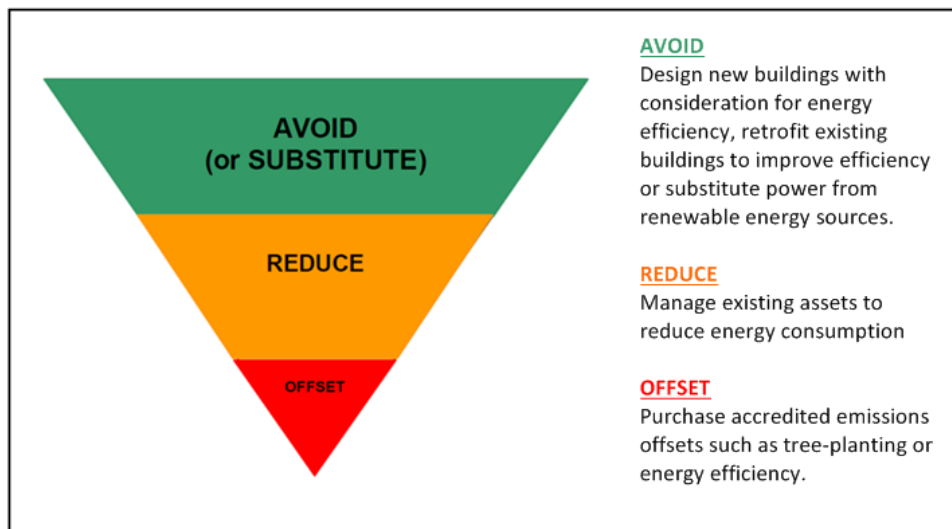


Figure 11: Emissions Reduction Hierarchy. Source: Greenhouse Action Plan 2007 – 2012.

4.2 Energy Audits

Some of the greatest effects on energy use are user behavior, climate, and age of the building. Energy audits involve an inspection, survey and analysis of energy flows, for energy conservation in a building. They allow for Council to identify ways to reduce the amount of energy consumed without negatively affecting the comfort of the building. Energy audits involve prioritising the range of actions identified by analysing the 'payback periods' (see section 4.3) for each action.

The key considerations during the energy audit process are:

- The analysis of building and utility data, including study of the installed equipment and analysis of energy bills.
- The survey of the real operating conditions.
- The understanding of the building behavior and of the interactions with weather, occupancy and operating schedules.
- The selection and the evaluation of energy conservation measures.
- The estimation of energy saving potential.
- The identification of customer concerns and needs.

4.3 Investment and Payback

When considering options to reduce energy consumption it's important to investigate the investment cost against the calculated energy cost savings. This is commonly expressed as the 'payback period', the period of time required to recoup the funds expended in the investment. Where possible, potential energy saving investments will be assessed by calculating the payback period, with feasible projects always having a payback period less than the life expectancy of the asset.

4.4 Peak Demand management

Peak demand refers to the times when maximum electricity is drawn from the network. A significant component of the electricity network has been built to deliver energy for the extreme peak loads that occur for less than one per cent of the time, with hundreds of millions of dollars spent each year to build and maintain this network. This cost is then passed on to the consumers through what is termed a 'network demand charge'. The amount charged is based on a previous instantaneous peak demand by the site and is charged by the supplier to have that capacity in the system at any time.

The network demand charge as a significant component of the electricity bills for The Alfred Deakin Centre and Madden Service Centre. If these assets can be managed to reduce that peak load, then this demand charge may be lowered with no capital investment. The end result is that although total energy consumption remains the same, total costs can be reduced. For example, if ventilation systems are on timers to all start-up at 8am, changes can be made to stagger start-up times to

reduce the maximum loading on the system. As peak demand management shifts, rather than reduces total energy use, its benefits lie solely in a reduced financial cost to Council.

4.5 Automated Building Control

4.5.1 Building Management Systems

Building management systems (BMS) are computer-based control systems installed in buildings to control and monitor the building's mechanical and electrical equipment which may include heating, ventilation and air conditioning (HVAC), lighting, power systems, fire systems, and security systems. These systems can aid in achieving significant reductions in energy consumption by allowing for more efficient use of electrical equipment.

4.5.2 Sensor and timers

The installation of timers and/or sensors can reduce electricity consumption by ensuring lighting and other items are not left on when not in use. These are to be included in all new buildings and refurbishments where appropriate and considered as a stand-alone retrofit option where the potential energy saving may be significant.

4.6 Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's)

Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA) are a Council based financing mechanism to help local businesses access funding for building works to improve energy efficiency, reduce waste and/or reduce water consumption. Some of the benefits of Council offering EUA's are:

- Allowing businesses to obtain longer term and lower interest loans for environmental upgrades, encouraging greater uptake environmental initiatives.
- Reduced energy, water and waste costs, and improved working conditions (such as increased thermal comfort) for building tenants.
- Job creation and economic development.
- A demonstration of Council's leadership in environmental sustainability.

4.7 Fleet Management System

Fleet management systems can include a range of functions, such as vehicle financing, vehicle maintenance, vehicle tracking, vehicle diagnostics, driver management, speed management, fuel management and health and safety management. Implementation of an effective fleet management system will assist Council to minimise the risks associated with vehicle investment, improving efficiency and reducing overall transportation and staff costs.

5. Targets

The targets of this Energy Management Plan are provide in Table 1.

Targets are based on reductions from 2015-16 consumption levels for the three focus areas. These consumption reductions targets are to be achieved by 2022 and rely on current operational and capital works funding levels being maintained. The annual cost and emission reductions have been estimated based on current cost tariffs and emission factors.

Focus Area	Consumption Reduction	Annual Cost Reduction	Annual Emission Reduction
Buildings and Facilities	25%	\$270,000	1,195 tCO ₂ -e
Street and Public lighting	15%	\$33,000	248 tCO ₂ -e
Fleet	10%	\$123,000	7 tCO ₂ -e
Total		\$426,000	1,450 tCO₂-e

Table 1. Targets and estimated cost and emission reductions for the three focus areas.

6. MONITORING, REPORTING AND REVIEW

Reporting on the Energy Management Action Plan will be completed quarterly via Council's Branch Plan. Progress towards the targets for electricity consumption will be completed quarterly in the Environmental Sustainability Team's System's View Quarterly Dashboard reporting.

The Annual Environmental Sustainability Report will provide the public with an overall picture of how Council is progressing toward the targets for electricity and fuel consumption. This document provides an assessment of Council's performance in a range of environmental sustainability areas, including electricity and fleet, against targets.

By continuing to monitor its energy consumption and emissions Council will be able to:

- Quantify the financial and emissions savings from its actions.
- Track progress against the targets.

Reporting Council's activity and successes will assist in maintaining the focus and momentum of the program. Regular reporting can assist in motivating action and acknowledging the efforts of participants. It also provides an effective method of sharing Council's achievements.

7. Existing Measures

A number of existing energy saving measures are in place and will continue as part of standard Council operations. These measures will not be reported on as part of the quarterly branch plan reporting.

Theme	Council will continue to...	Responsibility
Planning	Ensure energy efficiency and environmental sustainability issues are considered in development of structure plans, development plans and urban design frameworks (including shading of buildings).	CF
Planning	Ensure environmental sustainability issues (i.e. greenhouse gas emissions and climate change) are considered in review of the Corporate Plan and Mildura Planning Scheme.	CF
Engagement	Continue to work in partnership with our community, environmental authorities and all levels of the government and advocate on issues of energy efficiency and renewable energy.	CF
Engagement	Proactively engage with staff about energy consumption and efficiency and encourage behavioral change through Energy Management Teams (EMT's)	CF, EMT's
Engagement	Provide practical information on energy efficiency to residents and industry.	CF
Operational	Encourage the use of electronic communication mediums where appropriate.	CA
Operational	Implement the Water and Energy Use Guidelines (Buildings and Facilities) for all new builds, refurbishment and retrofits.	AS
Operational	Actively pursue funding for energy initiatives including using the VEET scheme to assist with funding of retrofits to energy efficient systems.	CF
Operational	Include environmental sustainability considerations as appropriate through the "Procurement of Goods, Services and Works Policy" and associated Guidelines.	FS
Operational	Investigate and keep up to date with sustainable public lighting technologies and funding opportunities.	AS/CF
Operational	Ensure energy efficiency settings are enabled on all relevant office equipment (i.e. computers, monitors, printers, photocopiers etc.) where technically and operationally possible.	IS
Operational	Undertake energy audits and energy efficiency actions in Council buildings under the annual Capital Works Program.	CF
Operational	Ensure sustainability concepts and procedures are implemented under the Risk Management Framework.	CA
Monitoring and Reporting	Maintain a register of key energy efficiency works implemented at Council facilities.	CF
Monitoring and Reporting	Manage electricity data collection and analysis, and report anomalies.	CF
Monitoring and Reporting	Monitor fleet fuel consumption, including hire plant, and report anomalies.	FS
Monitoring and Reporting	Source time of use load profiles for major sites and investigate opportunities to manage existing assets to decrease peak loads.	CF

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

Monitoring and Reporting	Report on electricity and fuel consumption in the public Annual Environmental Sustainability Report.	CF
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8. Action Plan

The Action Plan is designed to achieve the objectives of the Plan and reach the target reduction in energy consumption. The Action Plan builds on the existing measures that Council has in place and contains reportable actions to be included in Branch Plans for quarterly reporting.

Focus Area	Action	17-18	18-19	19-20	20-21	21-22	Funding	Responsible Branch	Assisting Branch
Buildings & Facilities	Ensure energy costs are included in the development of any building and facility upgrade/master plans.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	AS	CF
Buildings & Facilities	Implement "follow me printing".	X	X				Capital	IS	CF
Buildings & Facilities	Document and undertake specific maintenance activities required to maintain performance of energy efficiency installations including Solar PV and hot water, HVAC, window furnishings etc.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	AS	CF
Buildings & Facilities	Rationalise personal electrical appliances including heaters, fans, printers and fridges in Council office buildings.	X					Operational	AS	CF
Buildings & Facilities	Investigate opportunities for sub-metering electricity where there is potential to recover costs from users.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	CF	AS
Buildings & Facilities	Review current procedures relating to out of hour's office access and include energy management considerations where appropriate.	X					Operational	CF	AS
Buildings & Facilities	Determine and monitor gas consumption and cost across Council sites.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	CF	FS
Buildings & Facilities	Audit small market energy accounts and identify/implement actions for potential electricity savings through the Capital Works Program.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational, Capital	AS	CF

Energy Management Plan 2017-2021

Street/public Lighting	Review the Strategy for the Mildura Public Lighting Management Plan and ensure energy efficiency plans for street lighting are included.	X						Operational	CF	AS
Fleet	Implement a Fleet Management System for heavy vehicles and plant.	X	X					Capital	FS	WIS, PAWS
Fleet	Allocate fuel consumption and cost to funded projects, operational and Capital works	X	X					Operational	FS	WIS
Fleet	Deliver awareness sessions to drivers of heavy vehicles to promote energy efficient driving practices.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	FS	WIS, PAWS
Fleet	Utilise the Fleet Management System to reduce fuel consumption of Road Maintenance activities i.e. efficient works scheduling and route planning.		X	X	X	X	X	Operational	WIS	FS
Fleet	Utilise the Fleet Management System to reduce fuel consumption of Waste Management activities i.e. efficient works scheduling and route planning.		X	X	X	X	X	Operational	PAWS	FS
Fleet	Utilise the Fleet Management System to reduce fuel consumption of Parks and Gardens activities i.e. efficient works scheduling and route planning.		X	X	X	X	X	Operational	PAWS	FS
Fleet	Update the Fleet Management Policy to stipulate the replacement of commuter use vehicles to more efficient models.	X						Operational	FS	CA
Fleet	Update the relevant procurement documents to include an additional 5% weighting to environmental sustainability for Heavy Vehicles and Plant.	X						Operational	FS	WIS, PAWS
Fleet	Assess the potential for using alternative fuels on an annual basis and provide report to the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).	X	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	FS	CF
Fleet	Increase use of teleconference and video conference facilities as alternatives to air and vehicle travel through raising awareness and providing training where required.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	IS	CF
Other	Communicate energy management actions and achievements via a range of methods.	X	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	CF	CA

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Other	Update the relevant procurement documents to ensure purchases for energy related products include tender options for energy efficient alternatives i.e. will there be a cost saving over life cycle of the product.	X					Operational	FS	CF
Other	Develop and implement annual training program for key staff to increase knowledge and awareness in building and facility design, new and emerging technologies and energy conservation practices.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	CF	AS
Other	Implement the Environmental Upgrade Agreements (EUA's) scheme to support the uptake of environmental initiatives for local businesses.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational	CF	FS
Other	Investigate feasibility for community large scale solar projects.	X	X	X	X	X	Operational, External Funding	CF	FS

Acronyms List

- CF – Community Futures
- AS – Asset Services
- FS – Financial Services
- PAWS – Parks and Waste Services
- WIS – Works and Infrastructure Services
- CA – Corporate Administration
- IS – Information Systems

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14.3 COUNCILLORS EXPENSE REPORT

File Number: 02/01/06
Officer: General Manager Corporate

1. Summary

In keeping with Council's Councillor Support and Expenses Policy CP012, Councillor's expenses are reported quarterly to an Ordinary Meeting of Council. Accordingly, this report presents Councillor's expenses for the period 1 April to 30 June 2017.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the contents of this report.

3. Background

This report has been prepared in accordance with Council's Councillor Support and Expenses Policy CP012.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

Councillors have been provided with summary reports of their expenses on a monthly basis.

5. Discussion

Summarised in the document attached are the figures for allowances and expenses for the Mayor and Councillors for the period 1 April – 30 June 2017.

6. Time Frame

The Report presents Councillors' Expenses for the period 1 April to 30 June 2017.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

4.4 Financial Sustainability

Goals to be achieved:

- meets the Community's needs in a financially responsible manner.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There are no Asset Management implications associated with this report.

9. Implications

Policy

The report aligns with Council's Councillor Support and Expense Policy CP012.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with this report.

Financial

Costs are in accordance with Council's 2016/17 Operational Budget.

Environmental

There are no Environmental impacts associated with this report.

Social

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic

There are no Economic implications associated with this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1 Councillors Expenses 1 April - 30 June 2017

Councillor Expenses for the period 1 April – 30 June 2017

Councillor	1. Allowance	2. Travel & Accommodation	3. Car Mileage	4. Information & Communication	5. Conferences & Training	6. Catering / Meals	7. Misc
Cr Greg Brown	6,769.89	700.37	2,323.20	66.00		54.55	
Cr Anthony Cirillo	6,769.89			66.00			65.41
Cr Simon Clemence	6,769.89	513.76	518.76	202.36		81.36	65.41
Cr Ali Cupper	6,769.89			66.00			20.00
Cr Mark Eckel	6,769.89	230.91	477.84	266.00		106.72	65.41
Cr Jason Modica	6,769.89	1,552.20	815.10	202.36	1,167.27	198.13	80.90
Cr Glenn Milne	20,947.74	4,758.76		659.36	1,412.73	625.86	89.91
Cr Min Poole	6,769.89			270.54		135.91	65.41
Cr Max Thorburn	6,769.89			289.45			

Definition of Expenses

1. Mildura Rural City Council is a Category Two Council and must set allowances in line with the Local Government Act 1989. An adjustment is made annually and gazetted by the Minister. Allowances must also include amount in lieu of superannuation.
2. Travel Costs include cost of flights, taxis, public transport fees, and accommodation etc associated with undertaking duties of a Councillor 4,758.76
3. Car Mileage recognises the private vehicles costs associated with Councillors travelling and fulfilling Council duties
4. Communication expenses include costs associated with provision of equipment (l-pad, fax, phone), phone reimbursements and monthly telecommunications charges
5. These include registration fees, educational / training costs and meeting expenses
6. Catering costs associated with undertaking responsibilities of Councillor including meal reimbursements,
7. Includes carer expenses, printing, and other expenditure / reimbursements associated with responsibilities in performing Councillor role

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14.4 AUDIT COMMITTEE MEETING 1/2017-2018 - MINUTES SUMMARY - 19 JULY 2017

File Number: 02/02/08
Officer: General Manager Corporate

1. Summary

The Audit Committee Charter requires a summary of the minutes of Audit Committee meetings to be presented to Council for noting. The confidential minutes of Audit Committee Meeting 1/2017-2018, which include the key outcomes and recommendations of the meeting, have been distributed to councillors under separate cover.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the confidential minutes of the Audit Committee Meeting 1/2017-2018 held on 19 July 2017.

3. Background

The Audit Committee is an advisory committee to Council whose role is to oversee and monitor the effectiveness of Council in carrying out its responsibilities for accountable financial management, good corporate governance, and fostering an ethical environment. The Audit Committee consists of three independent members:

- Ms Karen Hensgen (Chair)
- Mr Frank Piscioneri
- Mr Paul Grigg

and two councillors:

- Mayor Cr Glenn Milne
- Deputy Mayor Cr Jason Modica

The Audit Committee meets bi-monthly in accordance with the Audit Committee Charter. Special meetings are also convened as required.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

There are no consultation implications associated with this report.

5. Discussion

At Audit Committee Meeting 1/2017-2018, the Committee:

- Received an update from the Procurement & Fleet Coordinator on the progress to date with the Mildura Riverfront Redevelopment Project.
- Received an update from the Acting CEO, Chris Parham, on:
 - fraud control and emerging risks
 - operational matters

- other matters of interest.
- Noted the status of service reviews, as outlined in the Sustainability Reviews Update Bulletin.
- Noted the status of internal reviews for the 2016-2017 Internal Audit Program, as reported in the Internal Audit Projects – Progress Summary Report, along with reviews planned to commence in the first quarter of 2017-2018.
- Reviewed the status of internal audit actions, as reported in the Internal Audit Tacking Register.
- Adopted the final report from BDO following the Revenue Review Assurance (including Data Analytics) – July 2017.

Management actions arising from this review have been recorded in relevant manager's branch plan. A progress report on the status of these actions will be provided to the Audit Committee through the Internal Audit Tracking Register, which is presented to each Audit Committee meeting as a standard item.

- Received the final Interim Management Letter 2016-2017, noting the two new issues raised. The Committee was provided with a status report by the Manager Financial Services on the new issues raised, along with the issues outstanding from the prior period.
- Adopted a schedule of presentations developed by Management to enhance the Audit Committee's knowledge on particular topics highlighted in the annual Audit Committee Self-assessment Questionnaire.

The Audit Committee agreed to receive one presentation at each of its meetings, with the first presentation to be made at in November 2017.

6. Time Frame

There are no timeframe implications associated with this report.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

4.5 Organisational Management

Goal to be achieved:

- effectively manage risk.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There are no asset management implications associated with this report.

9. Implications

Policy

This report complies with the Audit Committee Charter.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory implications associated with this report.

Financial

There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Environmental

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Social

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risks.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

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14.5 COMMUNITY SATISFACTION SURVEY RESULTS 2017

File Number: 08/09/02
Officer: General Manager Corporate

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to inform Council of the results from the 2017 Community Satisfaction Survey.

2. Recommendation

That Council note the Community Satisfaction Survey results for 2017.

3. Background

Each year Mildura Rural City Council commissions an independent market research company to conduct an annual community satisfaction survey on Council's behalf. The Community Satisfaction Survey is run in addition to the annual state-wide Local Government Community Satisfaction Survey, which the Victorian Government auspices and coordinates on behalf of all Victorian councils.

This report details the findings of Mildura Rural City Council's 2017 Community Satisfaction Survey results.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

The Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted over a four-week period from 19 April to 19 May 2017. The survey was made available on Council's website, as well as in paper form from Council's service centres and libraries.

A number of mediums were used to promote the survey including radio, newspaper, Community Matters newsletter and social media.

A total of 322 responses were received.

5. Discussion

Overall, respondents indicated a moderate level of satisfaction with Council. Respondents rated their overall satisfaction with Council as 3.64 out of 7 on average. This result is on par with last year's result (3.65)

The most important areas to community members were:

- garbage collection
- recycling
- tips/public transfer stations
- value for money
- local roads
- responsiveness to requests
- responsiveness to complaints.

Community members were most satisfied with:

- garbage collection
- recycling
- libraries
- general courtesy of council staff
- waste management
- immunisation programs
- tips/public transfer stations
- appearance of parks, gardens and public places.

The majority of survey items showed a negligible decrease in performance when compared to last year. However, the areas that have improved the most (mean performance score shift over time) are riverfront development and accessibility (+0.12) and litter control (+0.02).

Forty-seven per cent of respondents indicated they felt safe or very safe in the community.

Thirty-two per cent of respondents participate in a sport or physical recreation activity three or more times per week; a similar result to 2016 (33 per cent). Forty-five per cent of respondents participate in sport or physical recreation one or two times per week and 23 per cent of respondents indicate they do not engage in sport or physical recreation activity at all in an average week.

6. Time Frame

The Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted over a four week period from 19 April to 19 May 2017 with results reported in June 2017.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

4.1 Leadership and Representation

Goal to be achieved:

- deliver results in line with community expectations.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There are no Asset Management Policy/Plan considerations relative to this report.

9. Implications

Policy

The survey results will be taken into account as part of the Strategic Measurement System to understand areas in which Council may need to review current direction/policy and strategies in place.

Legal/Statutory

The results of this survey contribute to Council's statutory reporting requirements.

Financial

The cost of conducting this survey is operationally funded from the Organisational Development Branch's budget.

Environmental

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Social

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1 Mildura Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey Results 2017



Mildura Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey Report

June 2017



Mildura Rural City Council

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1. Introduction

Background

Mildura Rural City Council engaged Insync Surveys to conduct a Community Survey during April-May 2017 to measure the views, ideas and suggestions of community members. This is the fourth Community Survey of its type to be conducted by Mildura Rural City Council.

The objectives of the Community Survey are to:

- Provide the community with the opportunity to communicate openly and candidly with the Management Team and Council staff of the Mildura Rural City Council
- Identify key issues for Mildura Rural City Council residents
- Measure performance across key areas for Mildura Rural City Council
- Obtain feedback from community members in a meaningful way to build a stronger and more satisfied community
- Allow for comparative longitudinal analyses of the Council's performance over time

This report presents the findings from the 2017 Mildura Rural City Council Community Satisfaction Survey.

Survey process

Mildura Rural City Council community members were given the opportunity to participate in the survey during April-May 2017. The survey was distributed to community members in via online link or paper survey.

- 800 surveys were made available across Council's three service centres, 4 branches of the library as well as their mobile library. Copies were also distributed via key service areas such as Youth Services, Aged & Disability Services and Community Development.
- The online survey was made accessible via the Council website

From this sample, 322 responses were received.

Survey outline

The survey comprised of the following parts:

1: Demographics – asked community members to provide some broad demographic information which included the town in which they lived (Mildura, Irymple, Nichols Point, Merbein, Red Cliffs, Cardross, Koorlong, Nangiloc, Colignan, Ouyen, Millewa, Underbool, Walpeup, Murrayville), their age group, gender and place of birth.

2: Community, Environment, Economy, Council - asked community members to rate the **importance** and **performance** of a number of Community services/programs on 7-point scale where 1 = Low and 7 = High, i.e., *How important is this Community service? How is Council performing in the delivery of this Community service?*

3: Safety - asked community members to indicate how safe they feel in the community on a 5-point scale where 1 = Very unsafe and 5 = Very safe.

4: Ours is a community... - asked community members to rate the sustainability and equity of the community on a 7-point scale where 1 = Strongly disagree and 7 = Strongly agree.

5: Sport and recreation - asked community members to indicate how often they participated in sport or physical recreation activities in an average week.

Overview of results

- Overall, community members indicated a moderate level of satisfaction with Council. Respondents rated their overall satisfaction with Council as 3.64 out of seven on average. This represents a miniscule decrease from 2016.
 - 22% were highly satisfied (six or seven out of seven) and 31% were neutral (four or five out of seven). 42% of respondents indicated dissatisfaction with Council (one, two or three out of seven).
- In terms of facilities, programs and services community members were most satisfied with Libraries (49%), Immunisation programs (45%), Swimming pools (40%), Ovals and grounds (39%), and Arts & cultural facilities (36%).
- With regards to the environment the highest levels of satisfaction pertained to Garbage collection (60%), Recycling (52%), Waste management (45%), Tips / public transfer stations (43%) and Appearance of parks, gardens and public places (43%).
- The majority of survey items showed a slight decrease in performance. However, the areas that have improved the most since the 2016 study as presented by mean score shift over time, are:
 - Riverfront development and accessibility (+0.12)
 - Litter control (+0.02)
- 47% of respondents indicated they felt either safe or very safe in the community, this represents a slight decrease from 2016.
- As in previous years about a third of respondents participate in a sport or physical recreation activity three or more times in an average week.
 - 43% participate in sport or physical recreation one or two times a week
 - 23% indicated they do not engage in sport or physical recreation in an average week
- In terms of advocacy most indicated that they would recommend Mildura Rural City Council as a place to live (57%), and this represents a slight increase from 2016.

Response statistics

All respondents	322
Are you?	
Male	102
Female	197
Prefer not to say	10
Unspecified	13
Which age group are you in?	
Under 12	0
13 to 17	14
18 to 34	41
35 to 49	86
50 to 64	78
65 to 74	43
75+	45
Unspecified	15
What town do you live in or are closest to?	
Mildura	185
Irymple, Nichols Point	47
Merbein	38
Red Cliffs	24
Ouyen	10
Underbool, Walpeup	8
Murrayville	5
Cardross, Koorlong	2
Nangiloc, Colignan, Iraak	2
Millewa (Werrimull, Meringur, Culluleraine)	0
Other	1
Unspecified	0
Do you identify as any of the following?	
Aboriginal and / or Torres Strait Islander	11
Born outside Australia	32
Refugee	1
A person with a disability	41
LGBTIQ	18
Primary producer	22
Business owner	25
None of these apply to me	182
Unspecified	7

How did you find out about this survey?	
Newspaper	30
Radio	29
Facebook	111
Twitter	0
Email from Council	12
Someone told me about it	31
Council website	15
Promoted at a Council building	29
Council staff member told me	56
Other	29
Unspecified	7

Top 5 gap scores by demographic

Community members were asked to rate the **importance** and **performance** of a number of Community services/programs on a scale where 1 = Low and 7 = High, i.e., *How important is this Community service/program?* and *How is Council performing in the delivery of this Community service/program?*

In identifying areas for improvement, Insync analyses the perceived difference or "gap" between the importance and performance scores for each survey item. The **gap score** is the average **importance score minus the performance score**. A gap score of 1.90 or higher indicates areas of frustration where the perceived importance of an area is not meeting expectations of performance.

The tables below summarise the top gaps from all respondents (Overall) and from each of the locations within Mildura Rural City Council. Highlighted in grey are the items that are unique to that particular location

Overall		Mildura		Irymple, Nichols Point	
Value for money	3.26	Rail services and infrastructure	2.98	Value for money	3.90
Rail services and infrastructure	3.12	Value for money	2.96	Performance of the elected Council	3.66
Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	3.06	Performance of the elected Council	2.86	Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	3.54
Performance of the elected Council	2.92	Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	2.74	Responsiveness to complaints	3.44
Responsiveness to complaints	2.82	Council's engagement in decision making	2.59	Responsiveness to requests	3.38
Merbein		Red Cliffs		Ouyen	
Rail services and infrastructure	3.76	Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	2.70	Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	5.38
Value for money	3.47	Responsiveness to complaints	2.69	Council's engagement in decision making	4.88
Land use planning	3.14	Responsiveness to requests	2.65	Responsiveness to requests	4.63
Local roads	2.94	Local roads	2.58	Value for money	4.63
Responsiveness to complaints	2.94	Litter control	2.57	Performance of the elected Council	4.50
Underbool, Walpeup					
Public transport	5.88				
Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback	4.88				
Health education programs	4.75				
Child care	4.75				
Libraries	4.75				



Mildura Rural City Council

Community Satisfaction Survey Report

All respondents

June 2017



Mildura Rural City Council

Melbourne
Sydney
Address
Website

Insync Surveys Pty Ltd
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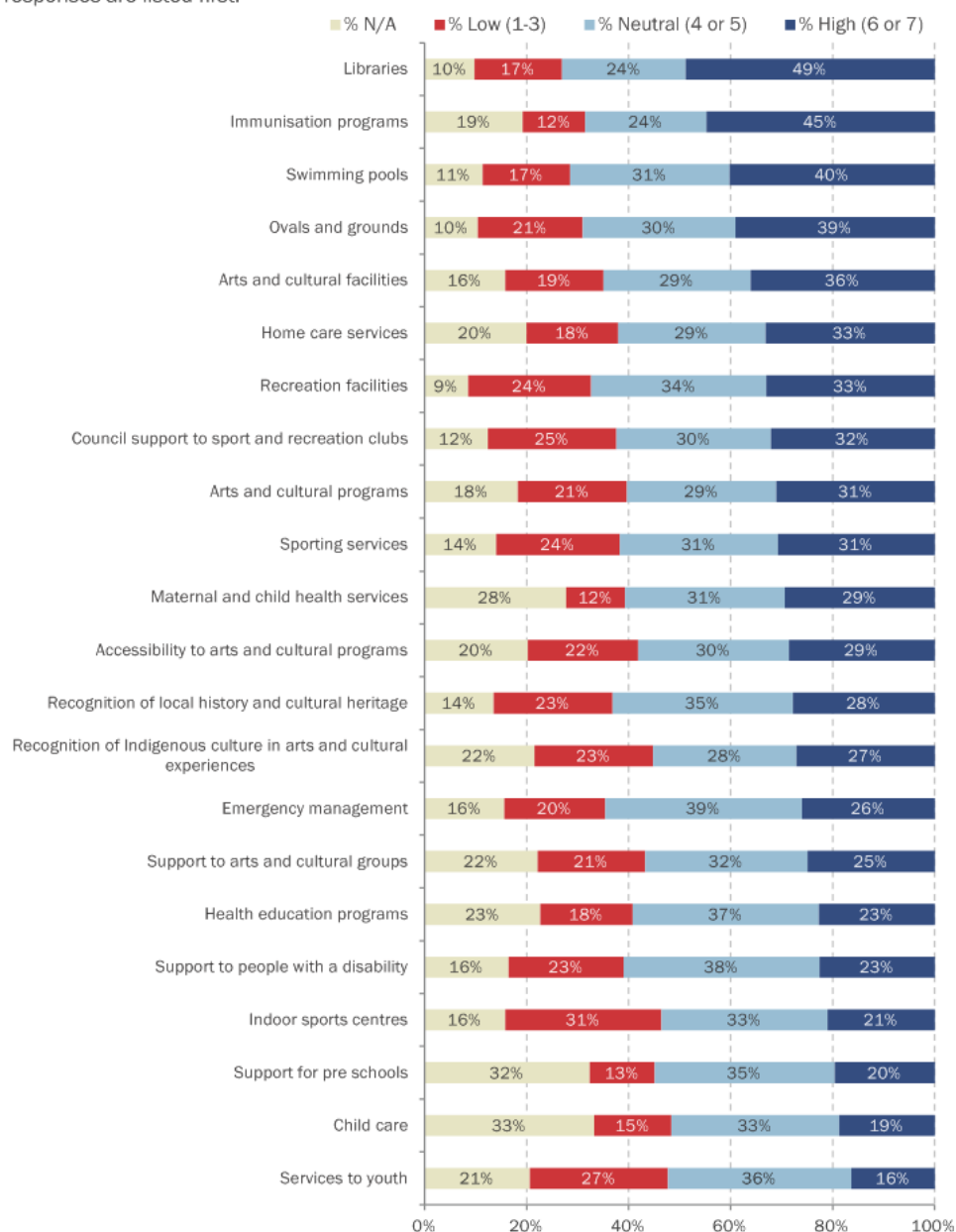
Overall – All respondents (322 responses)

Community

How well is Council performing?

Respondents were asked to rate how the Council was performing on a number of Community services and programs where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale. If respondents were not familiar with, or had not used a service, they could select "N/A".

The percentage of responses for each Community service/program is presented in the graph below. The results are ordered by the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7) where the areas with more positive responses are listed first.



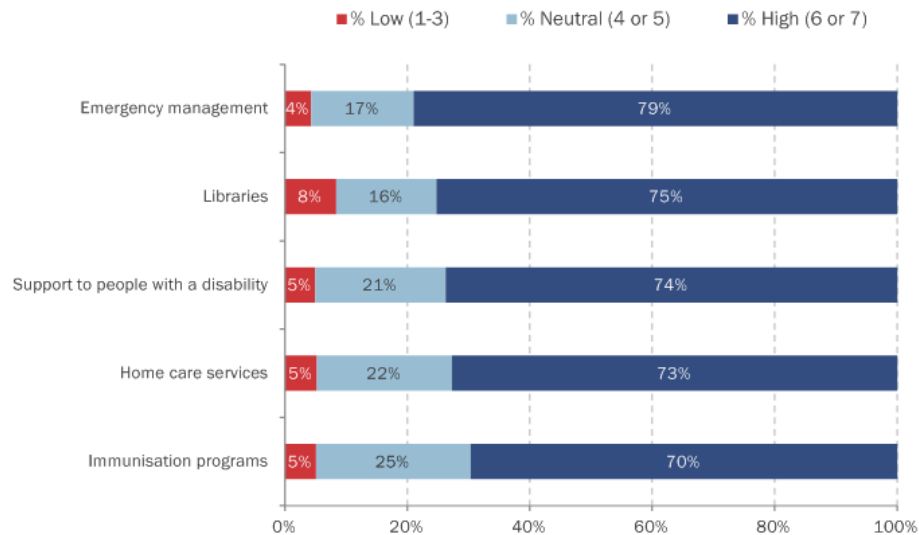
How important is this area to the Community?

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each Community service/program where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale.

Listed in the graphs below are the top five and bottom five importance areas.

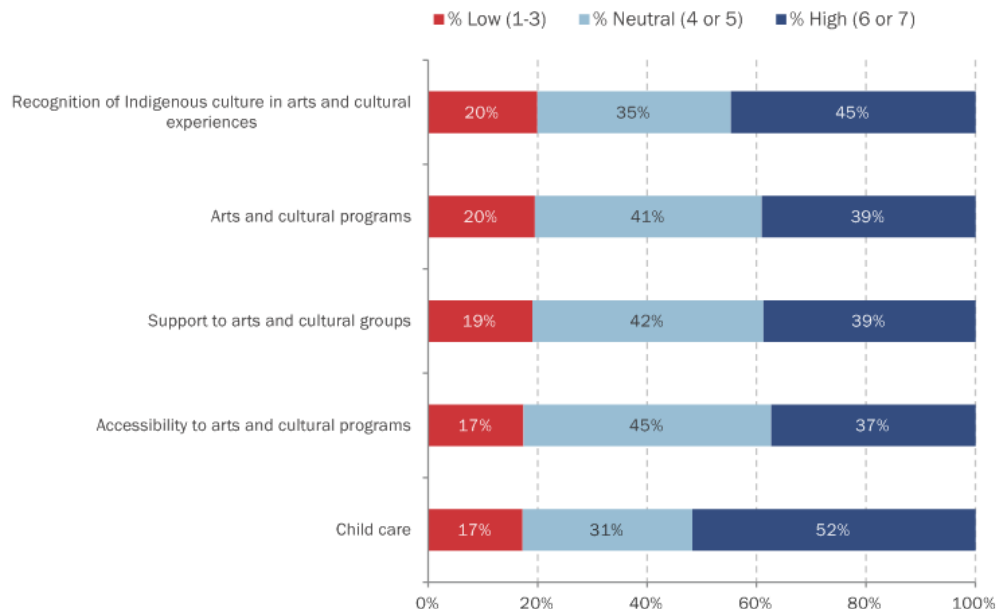
Top 5 importance areas

The top five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7).

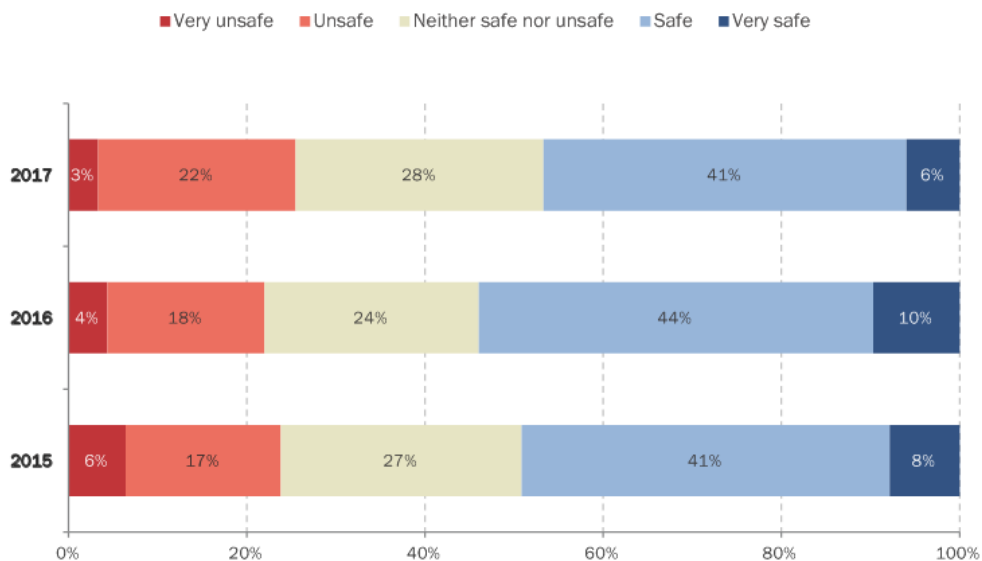


Bottom 5 importance areas

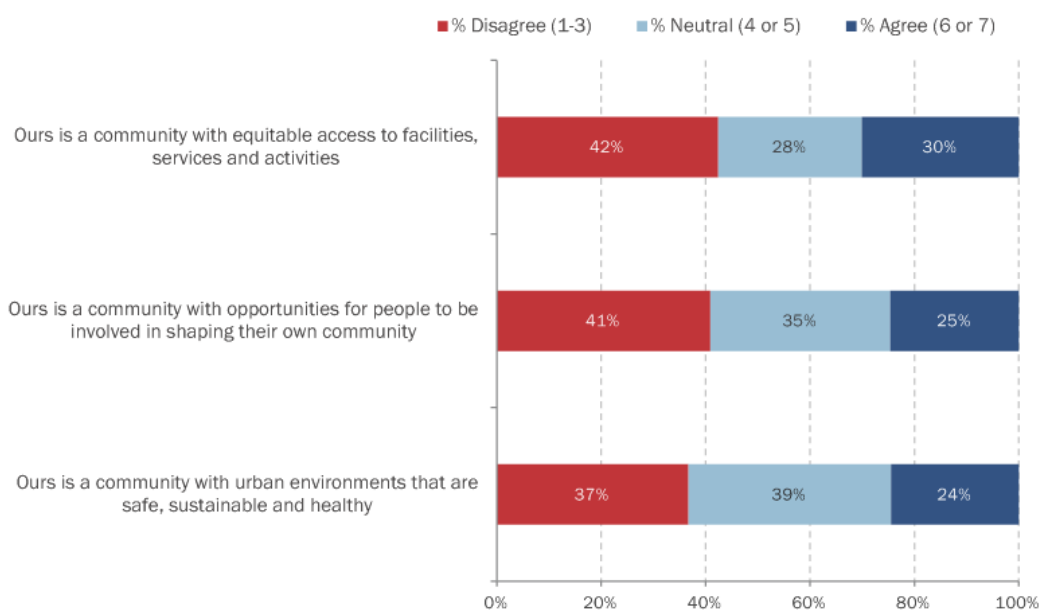
The bottom five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of negative responses (i.e., ratings of 1, 2 or 3 out of 7).



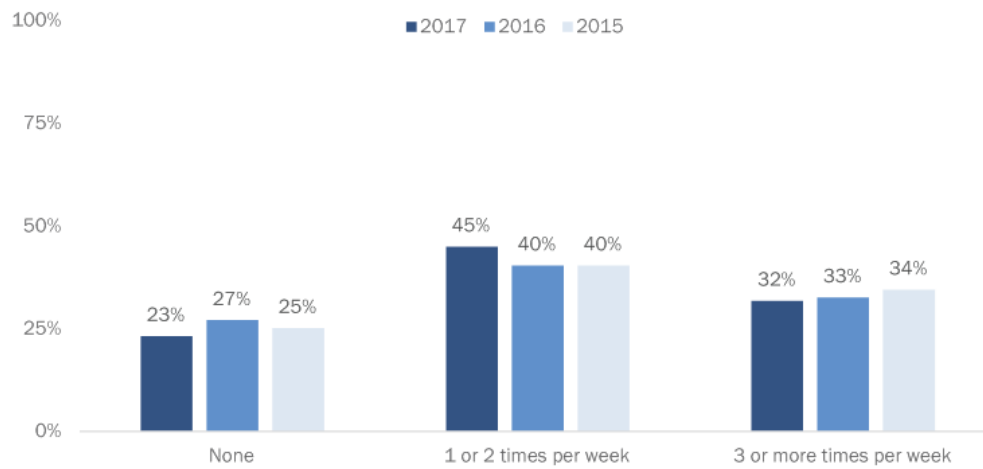
How safe do you feel in your community?



Ours is a community...



In an average week, how many times do you participate in a sport or physical recreation activity?

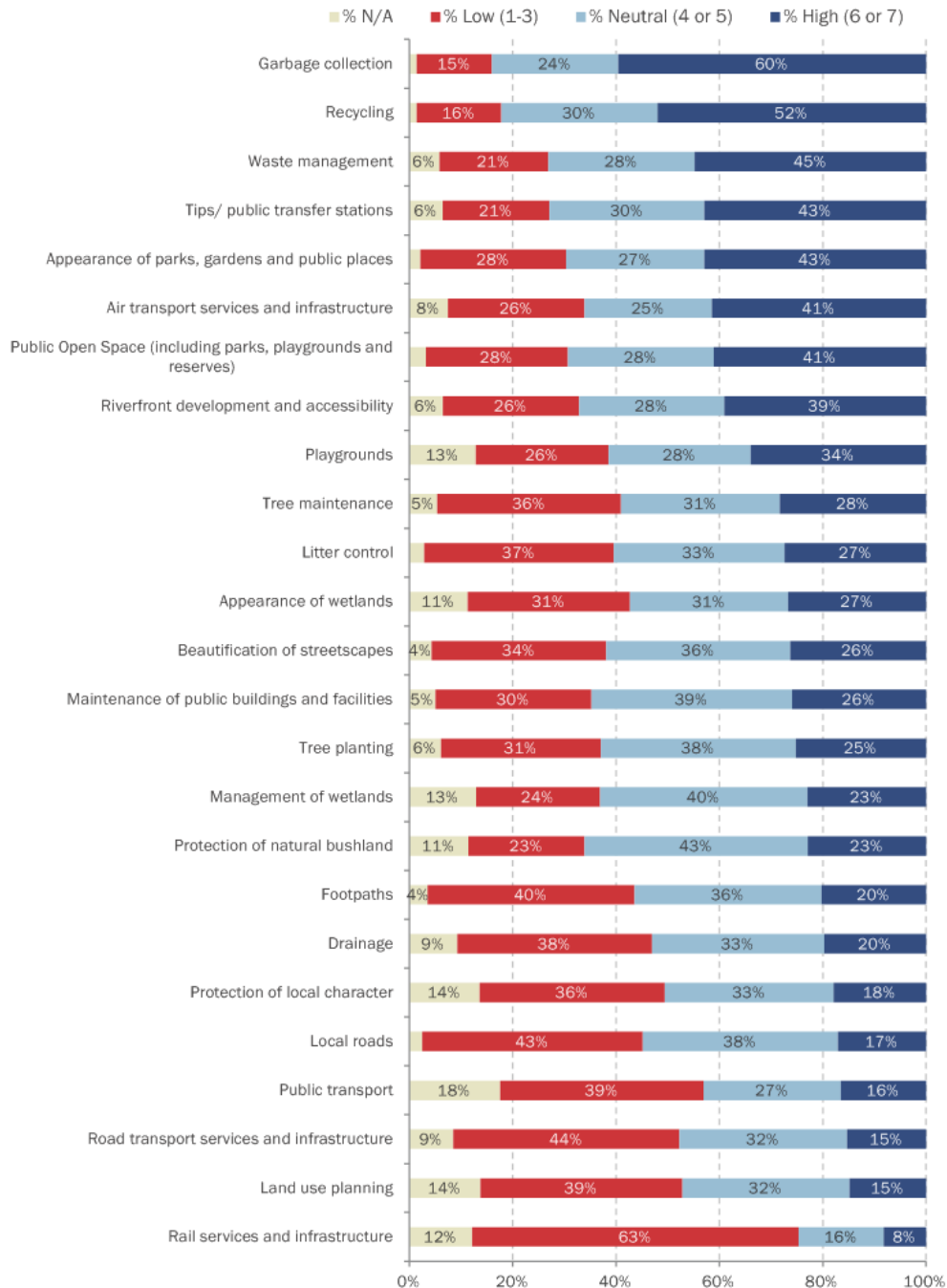


Environment

How well is Council performing?

Respondents were asked to rate how the Council was performing on a number of Community services and programs where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale. If respondents were not familiar with, or had not used a service, they could select "N/A".

The percentage of responses for each Community service/program is presented in the graph below. The results are ordered by the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7) where the areas with more positive responses are listed first.



Environment

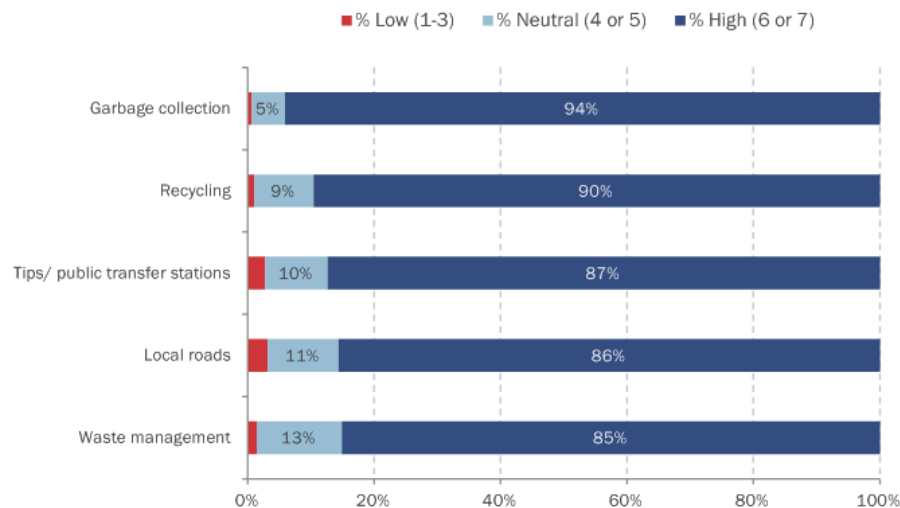
How important is this area to the Community?

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each Community service/program where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale.

Listed in the graphs below are the top five and bottom five importance areas.

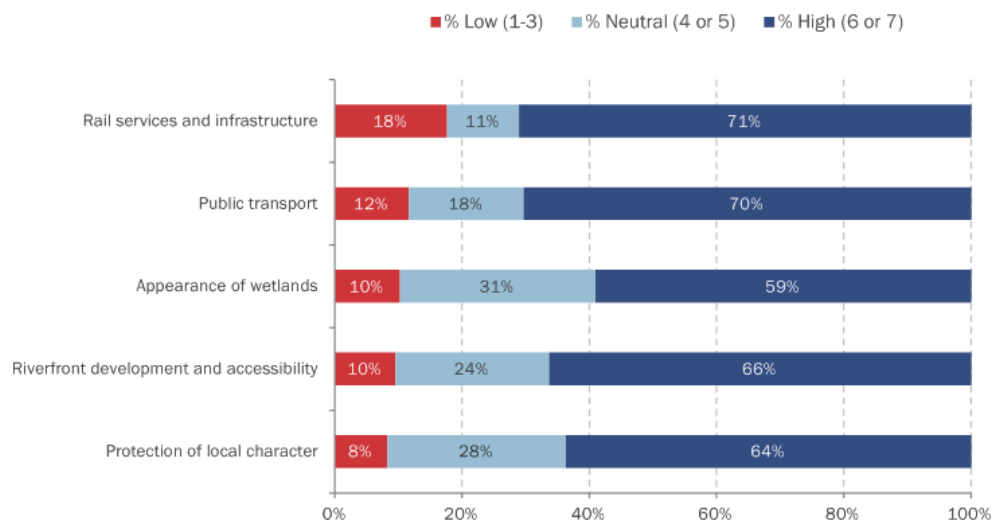
Top 5 importance areas

The top five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7)



Bottom 5 importance areas

The bottom five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of negative responses (i.e., ratings of 1, 2 or 3 out of 7).

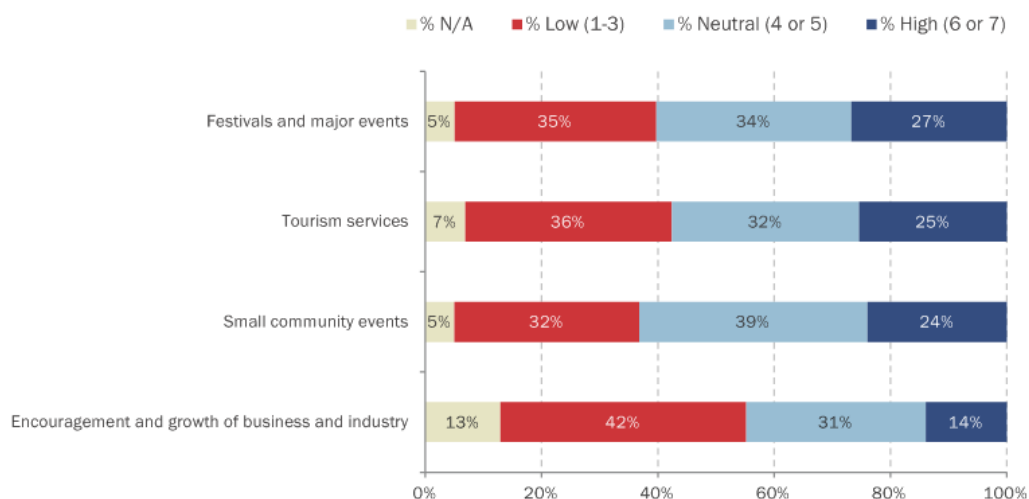


Economy

How well is Council performing?

Respondents were asked to rate how the Council was performing on a number of Community services and programs where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale. If respondents were not familiar with, or had not used a service, they could select "N/A".

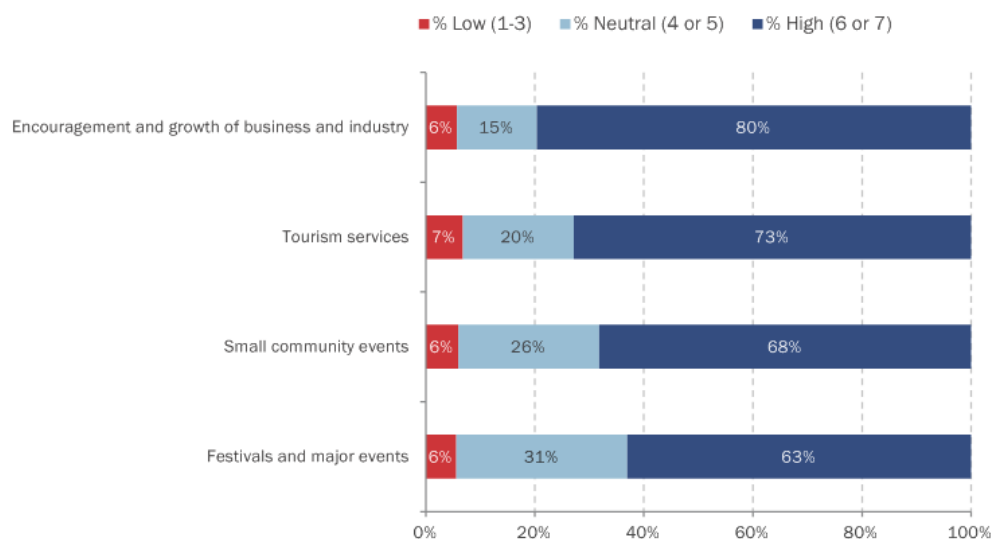
The percentage of responses for each Community service/program is presented in the graph below. The results are ordered by the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7) where the areas with more positive responses are listed first.



How important is this area to the Community?

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each Community service/program where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale.

Listed in the graphs below are the top five importance areas. The top five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7).

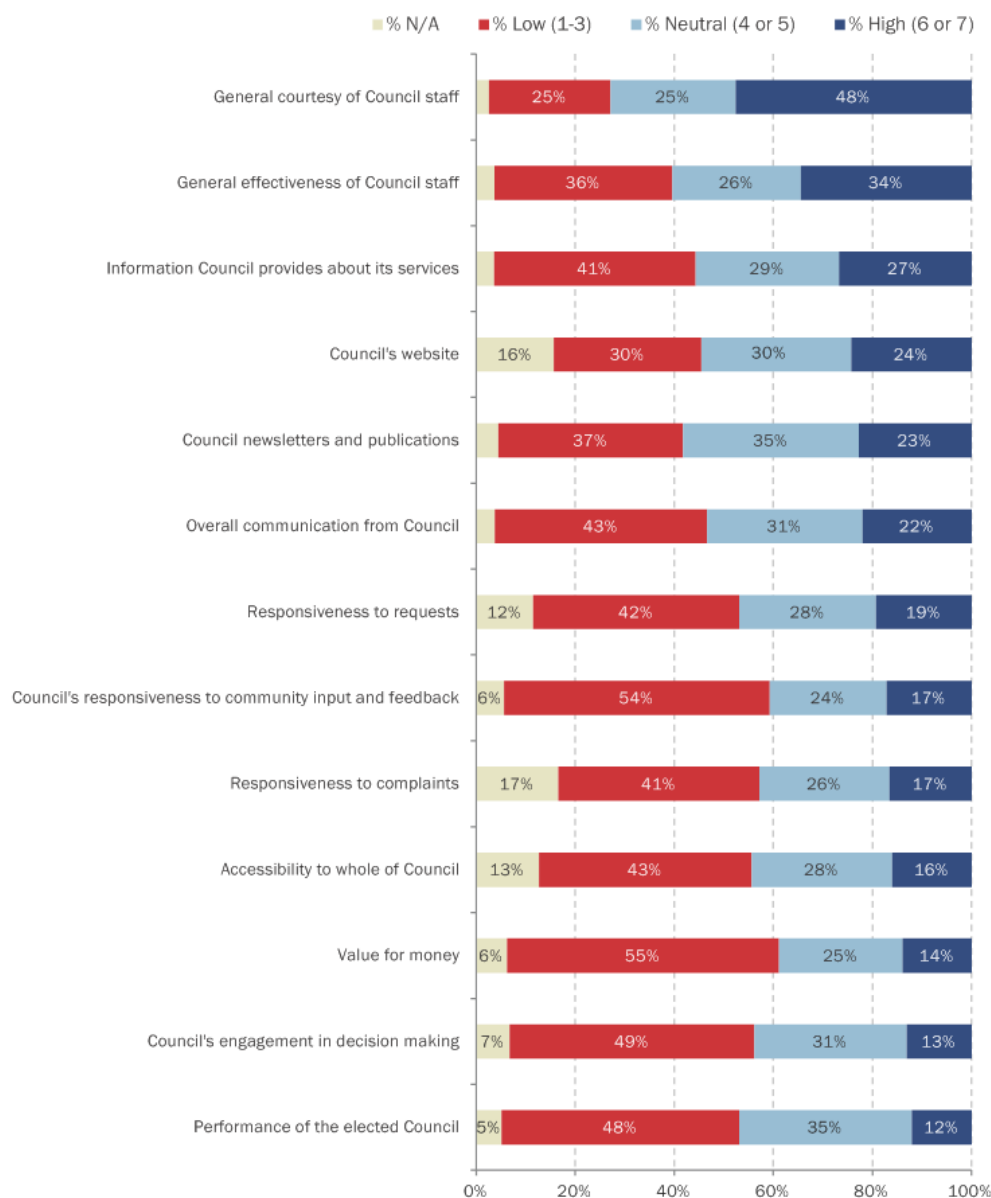


Council

How well is Council performing?

Respondents were asked to rate how the Council was performing on a number of Community services and programs where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale. If respondents were not familiar with, or had not used a service, they could select "N/A".

The percentage of responses for each Community service/program is presented in the graph below. The results are ordered by the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7) where the areas with more positive responses are listed first.



Council

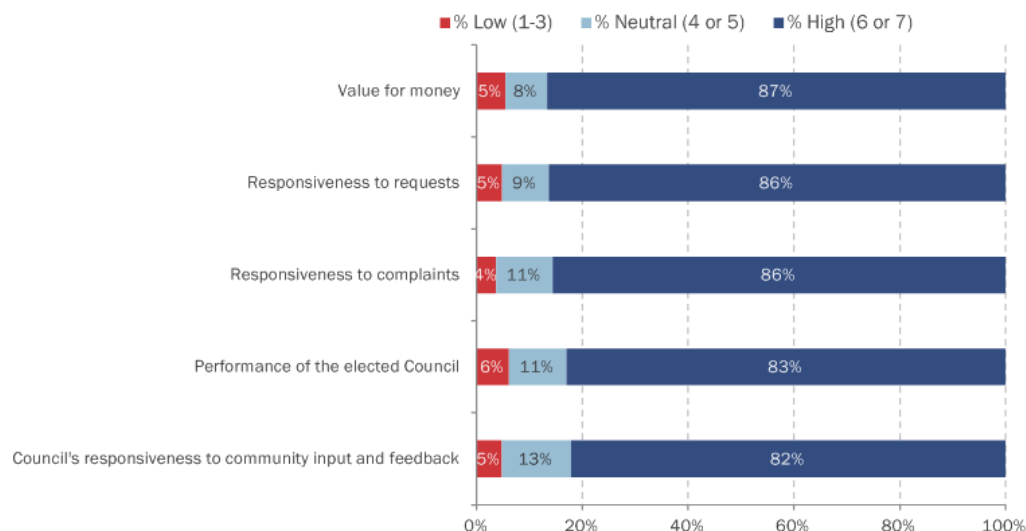
How important is this area to the Community?

Respondents were asked to rate the importance of each Community service/program where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale.

Listed in the graphs below are the top five and bottom five importance areas.

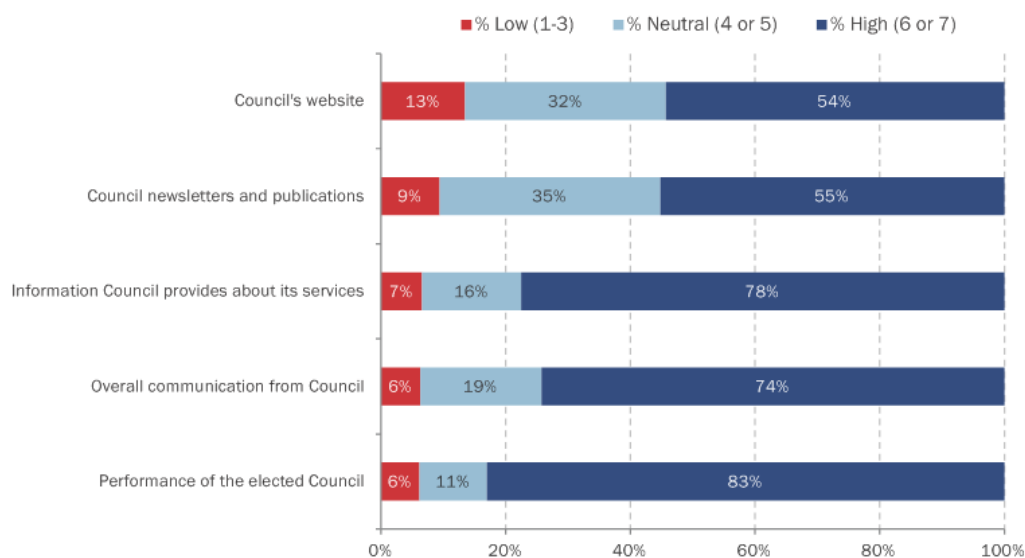
Top 5 importance areas

The top five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of positive responses (i.e., ratings of 6 or 7 out of 7).



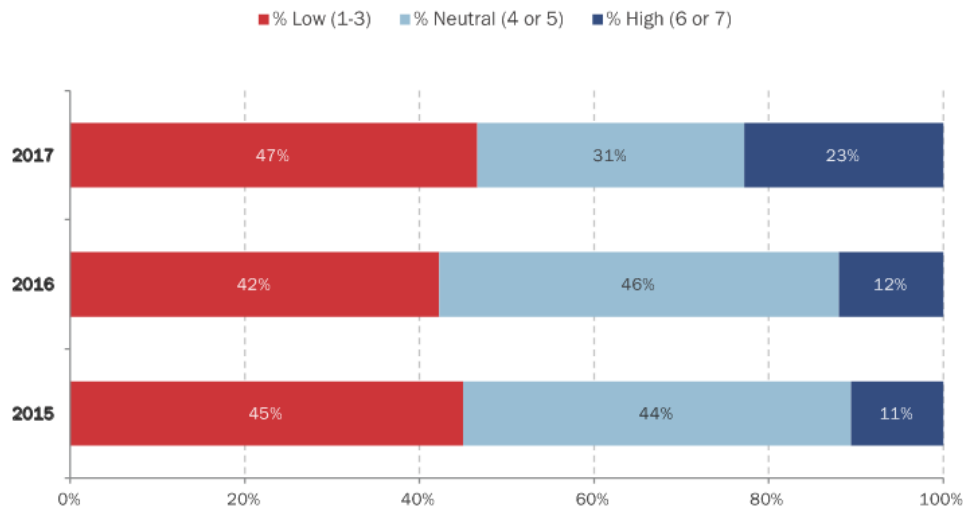
Bottom 5 importance areas

The bottom five areas are ranked in terms of the percentage of negative responses (i.e., ratings of 1, 2 or 3 out of 7).

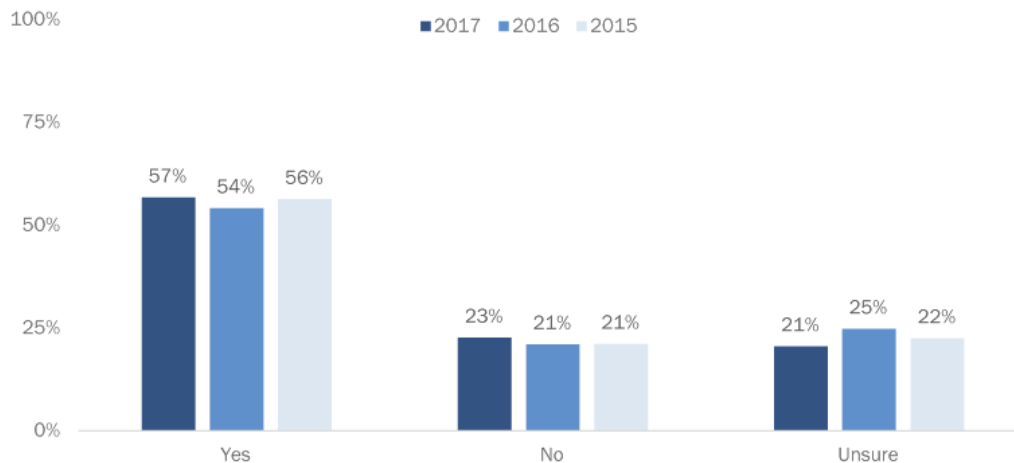


Overall satisfaction with Council's performance

Respondents were asked to rate their overall satisfaction with Council's performance where 1 = Low and 7 = High on a 7-point scale.



Would you recommend Mildura Rural City Council as a place to live



Survey responses by item

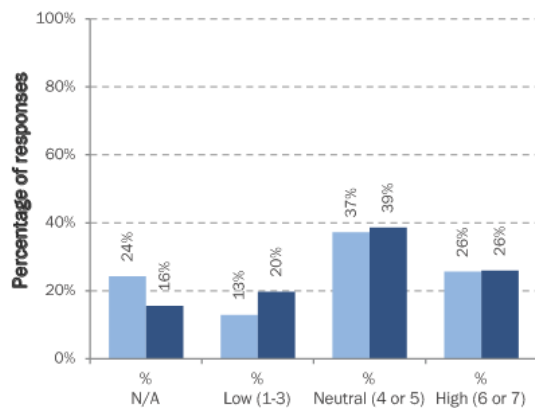
These charts show the survey participants' responses to each survey item. The columns show the percentage of respondents that selected option on the 7 point scale. Above each chart is the average Performance rating for 2017. The number in brackets represents the average shift in rating since the previous survey.

Community

Emergency management

2017 Performance score:

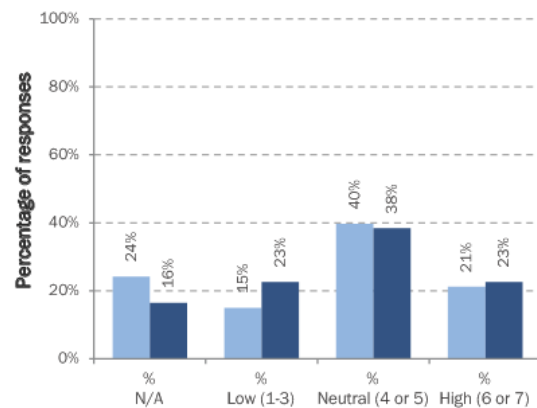
4.52(-1.06)



Support to people with a disability

2017 Performance score:

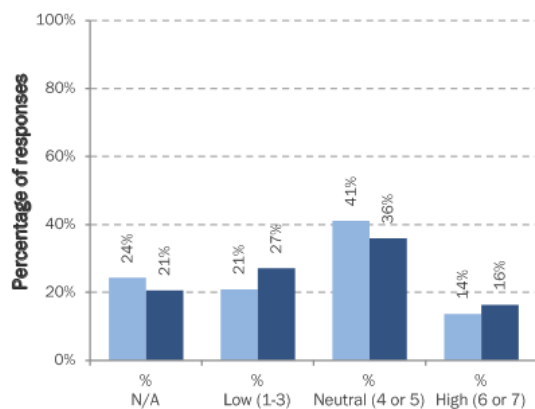
4.30(-1.14)



Services to youth

2017 Performance score:

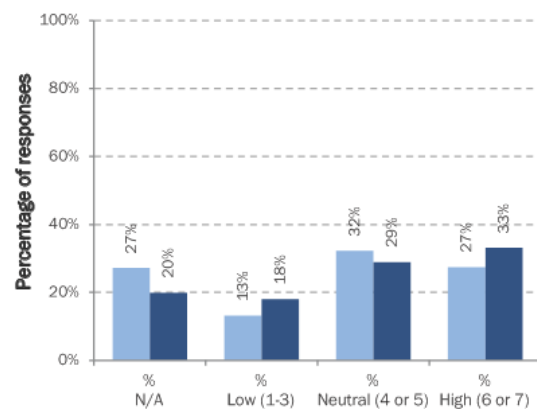
4.08(-1.03)



Home care services

2017 Performance score:

4.72(-0.98)



Legend:

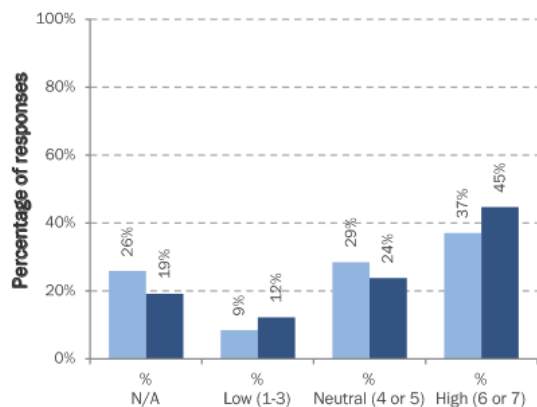
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Community (Continued)

Immunisation programs

2017 Performance score:

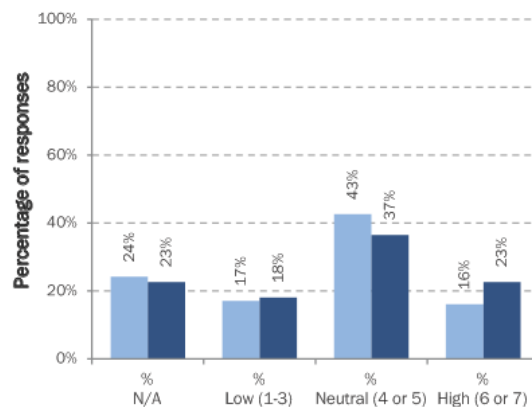
5.23(-0.76)



Health education programs

2017 Performance score:

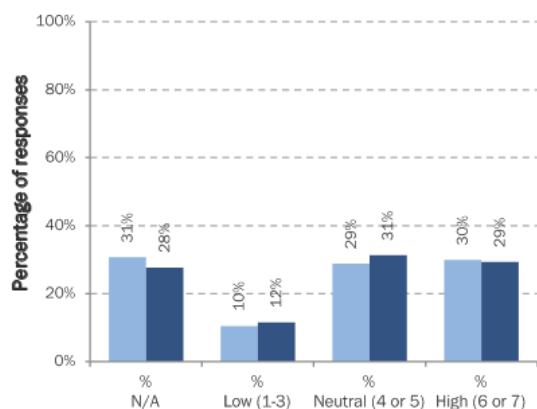
4.49(-0.80)



Maternal and child health services

2017 Performance score:

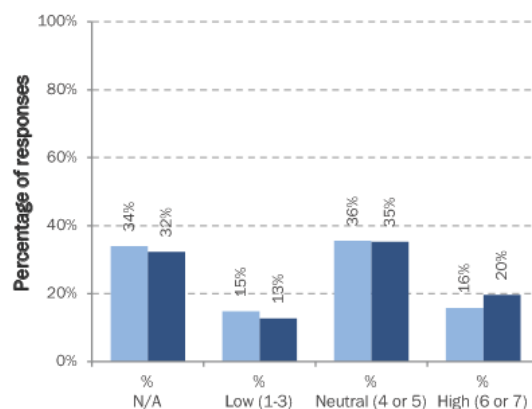
4.90(-1.04)



Support for pre schools

2017 Performance score:

4.57(-1.09)



Legend:

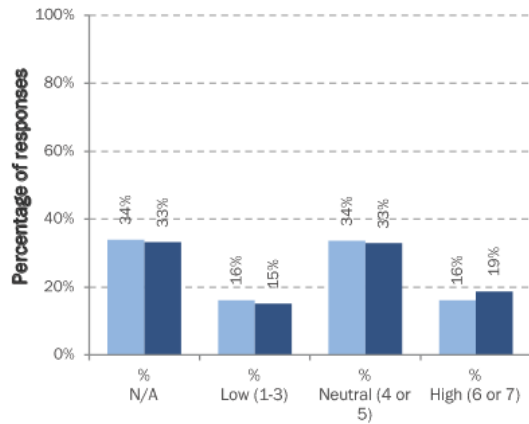
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Community (Continued)

Child care

2017 Performance score:

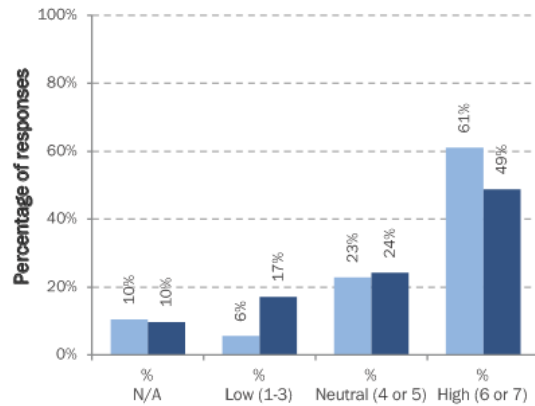
4.53(-1.10)



Libraries

2017 Performance score:

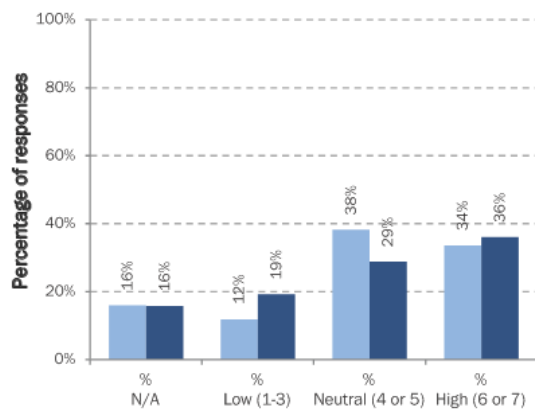
5.09(-0.88)



Arts and cultural facilities

2017 Performance score:

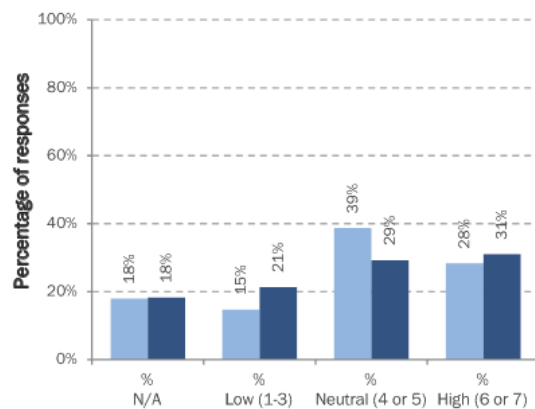
4.71(-0.76)



Arts and cultural programs

2017 Performance score:

4.57(-0.81)



Legend:

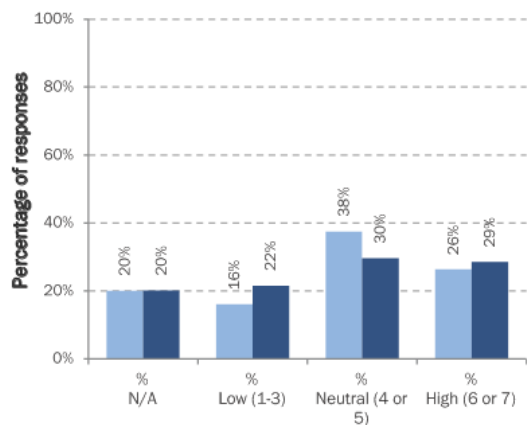
Trend over time 2016 2017

Community (Continued)

Accessibility to arts and cultural programs

2017 Performance score:

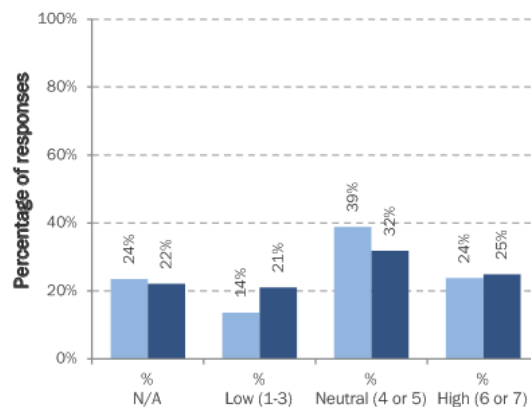
4.41(-0.95)



Support to arts and cultural groups

2017 Performance score:

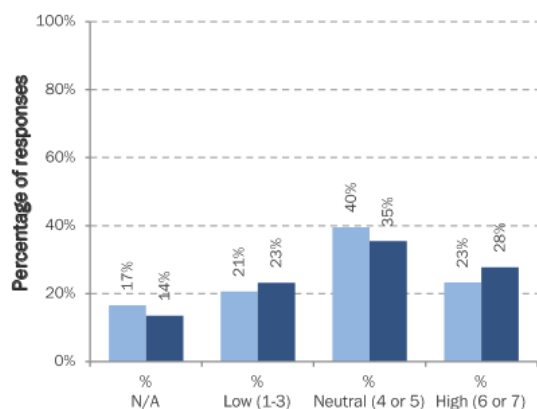
4.34(-1.12)



Recognition of local history and cultural heritage

2017 Performance score:

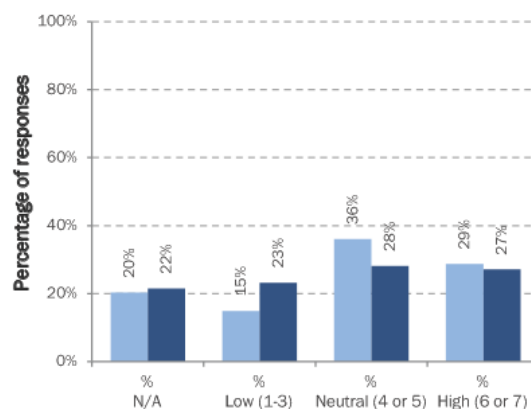
4.44(-0.62)



Recognition of Indigenous culture in arts and cultural experiences

2017 Performance score:

4.39(-1.06)



Legend:

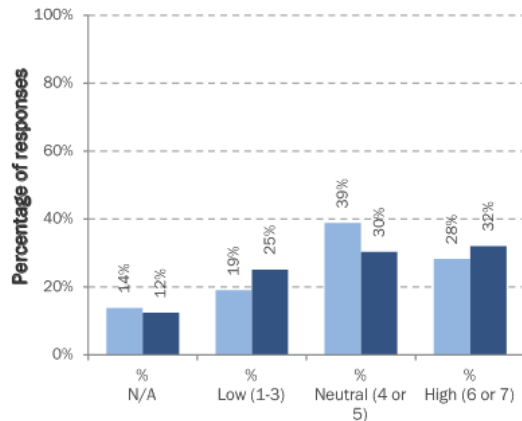
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Community (Continued)

Council support to sport and recreation clubs

2017 Performance score:

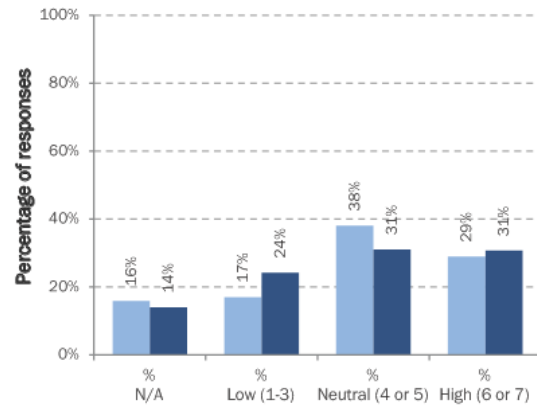
4.49(-0.65)



Sporting services

2017 Performance score:

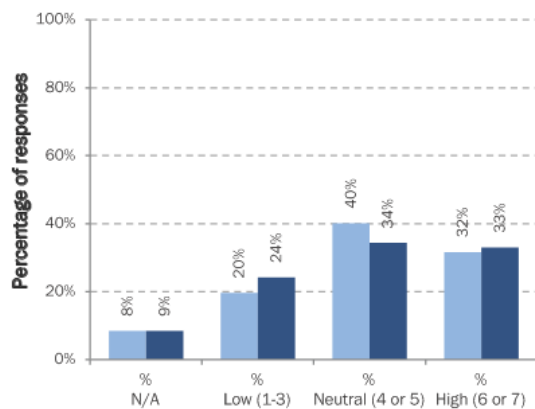
4.49(-0.78)



Recreation facilities

2017 Performance score:

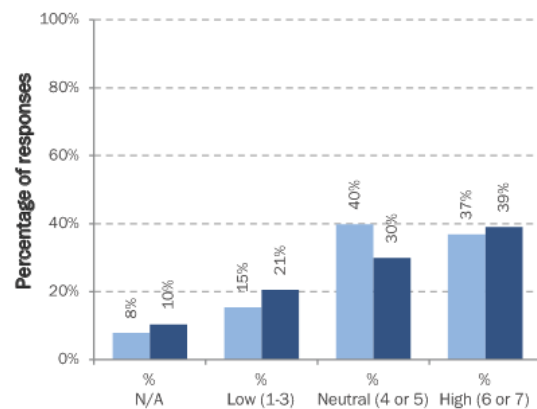
4.59(-0.37)



Ovals and grounds

2017 Performance score:

4.83(-0.32)



Legend:

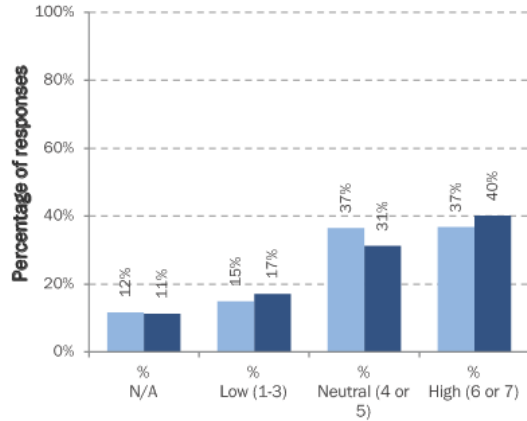
Trend over time 2016 2017

Community (Continued)

Swimming pools

2017 Performance score:

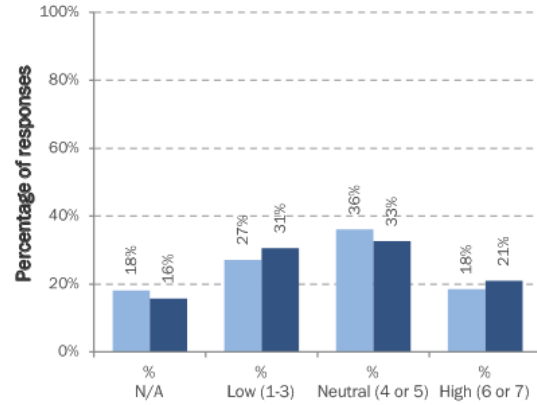
4.90(-0.37)



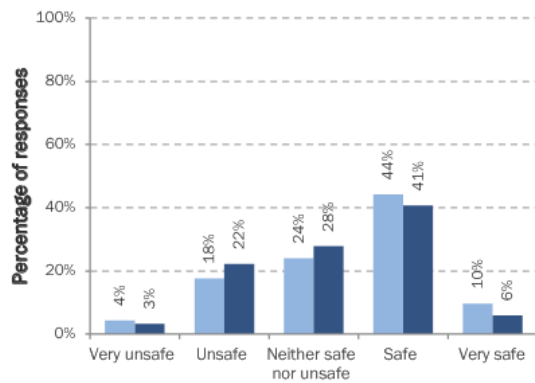
Indoor sports centres

2017 Performance score:

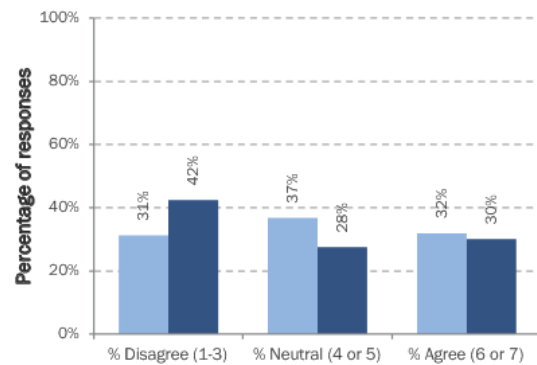
4.16(-0.60)



How safe do you feel in your community?



Ours is a community with equitable access to facilities, services and activities

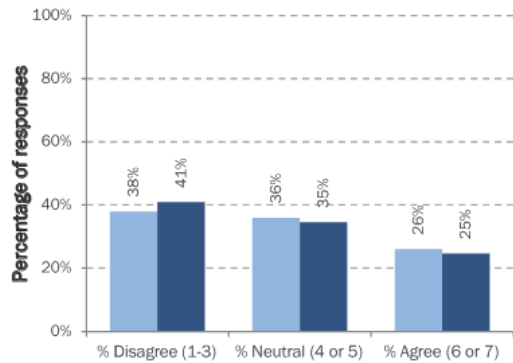


Legend:

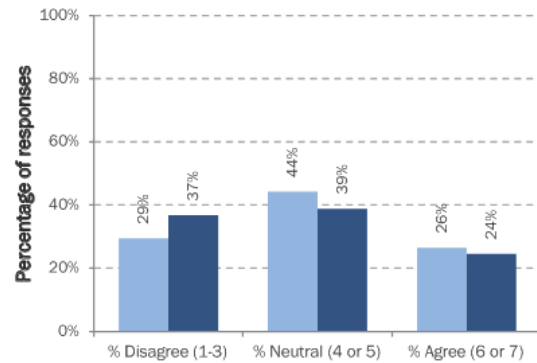
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Community (Continued)

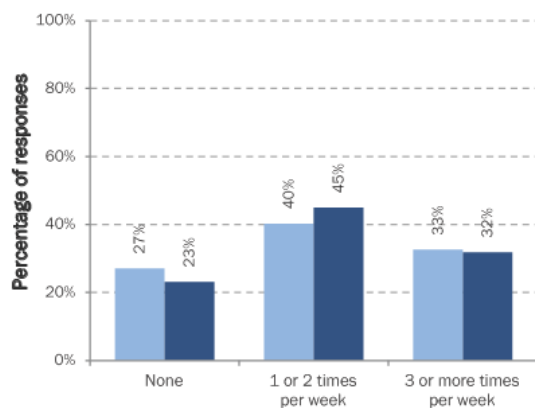
Ours is a community with opportunities for people to be involved in shaping their own community



Ours is a community with urban environments that are safe, sustainable and healthy



In an average week, how many times do you participate in a sport or physical recreation activity?



Legend:

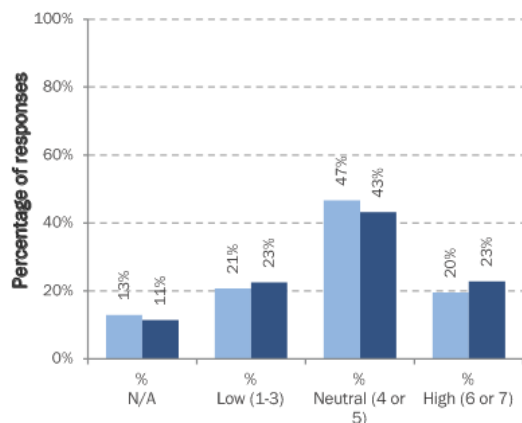
Trend over time 2016 2017

Environment

Protection of natural bushland

2017 Performance score:

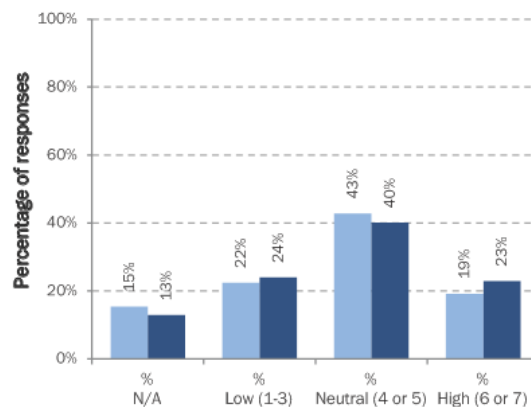
4.39(-0.55)



Management of wetlands

2017 Performance score:

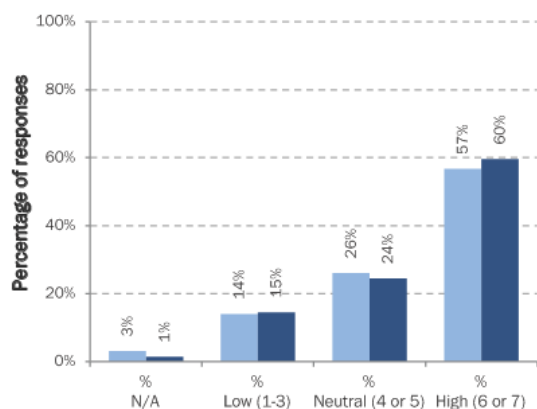
4.35(-0.50)



Garbage collection

2017 Performance score:

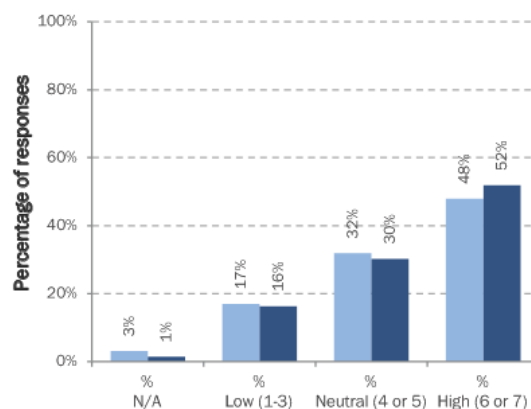
5.39(-0.12)



Recycling

2017 Performance score:

5.17(-0.08)



Legend:

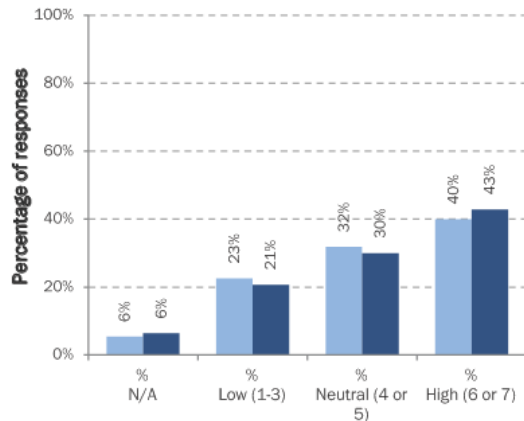
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Environment (Continued)

Tips/ public transfer stations

2017 Performance score:

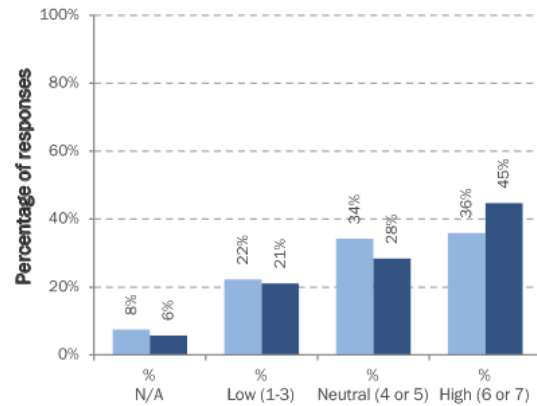
4.92(-0.09)



Waste management

2017 Performance score:

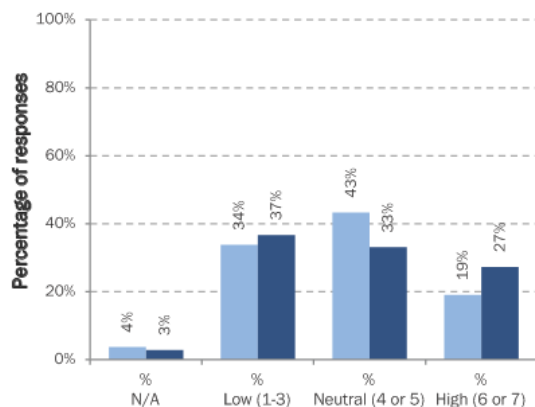
4.88(-0.15)



Litter control

2017 Performance score:

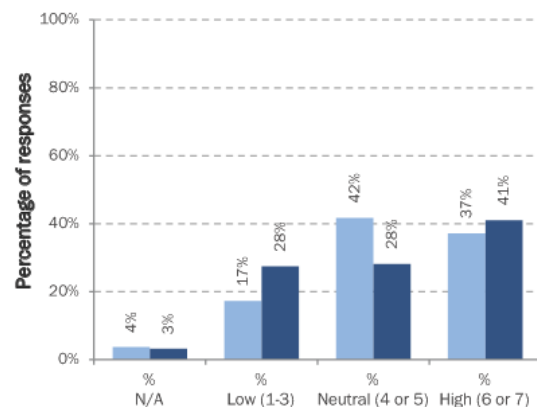
4.19(+0.02)



Public Open Space (including parks, playgrounds and reserves)

2017 Performance score:

4.65(-0.33)



Legend:

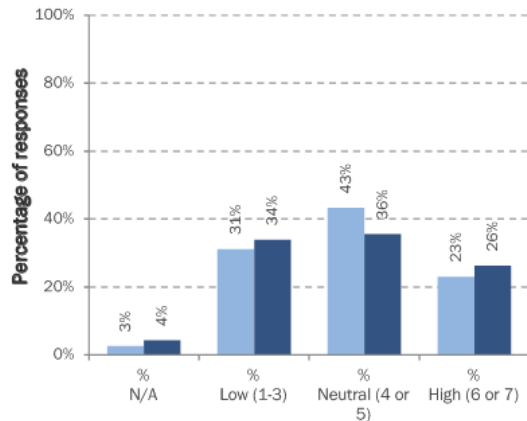
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Environment (Continued)

Beautification of streetscapes

2017 Performance score:

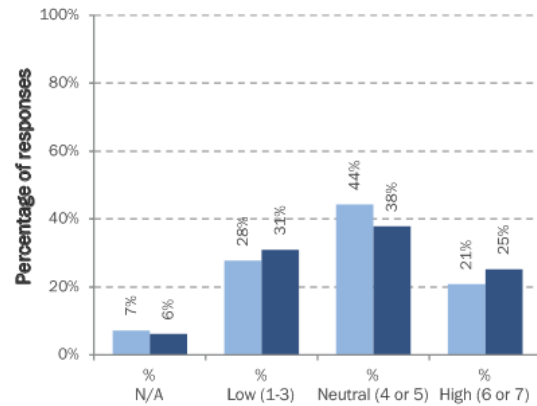
4.18(-0.08)



Tree planting

2017 Performance score:

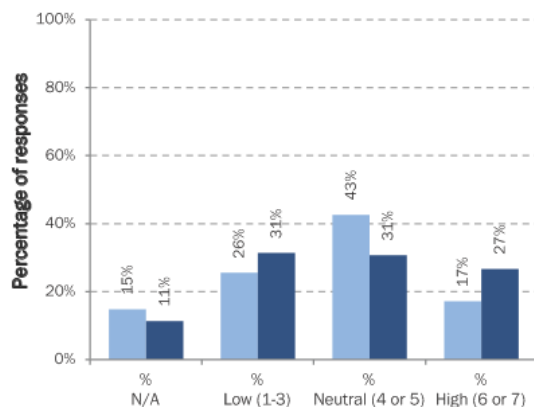
4.28(-0.17)



Appearance of wetlands

2017 Performance score:

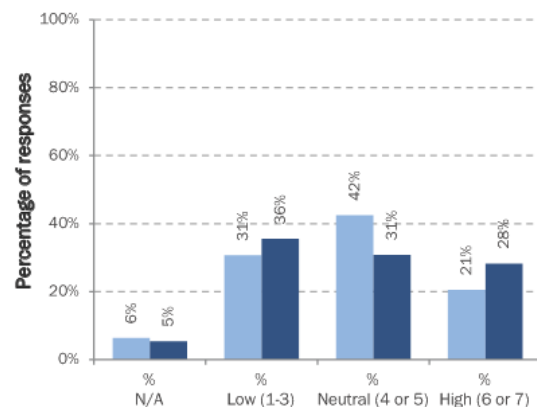
4.25(-0.47)



Tree maintenance

2017 Performance score:

4.16(-0.19)



Legend:

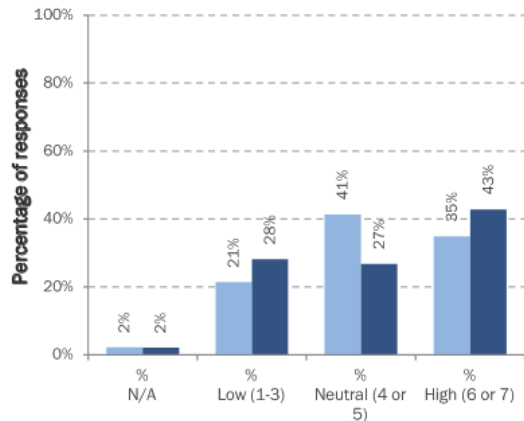
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Environment (Continued)

Appearance of parks, gardens and public places

2017 Performance score:

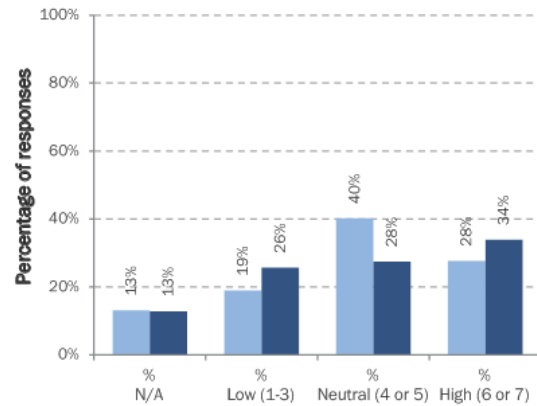
4.62(-0.21)



Playgrounds

2017 Performance score:

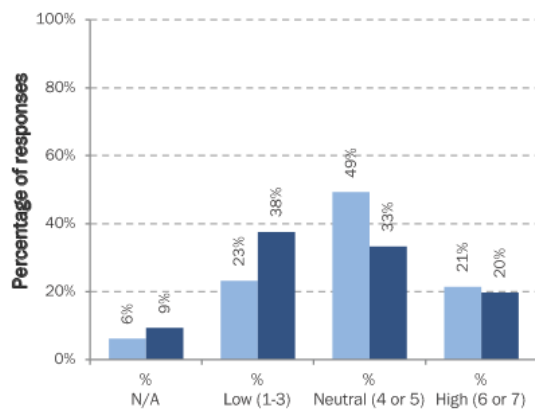
4.58(-0.56)



Drainage

2017 Performance score:

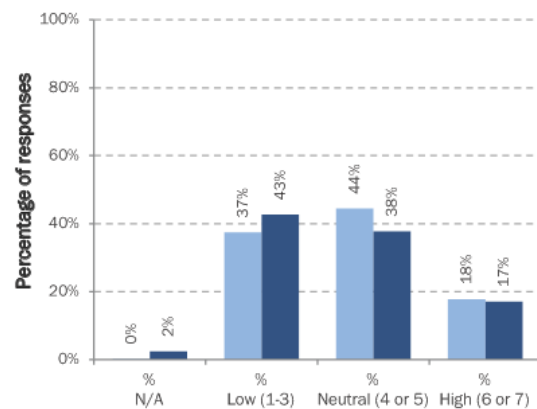
3.96(-0.58)



Local roads

2017 Performance score:

3.69(-0.21)



Legend:

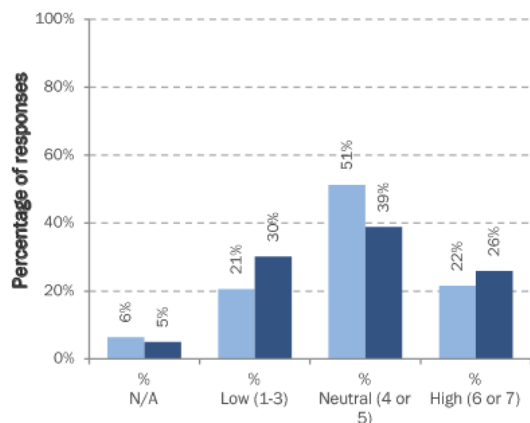
Trend over time 2016 2017

Environment (Continued)

Maintenance of public buildings and facilities

2017 Performance score:

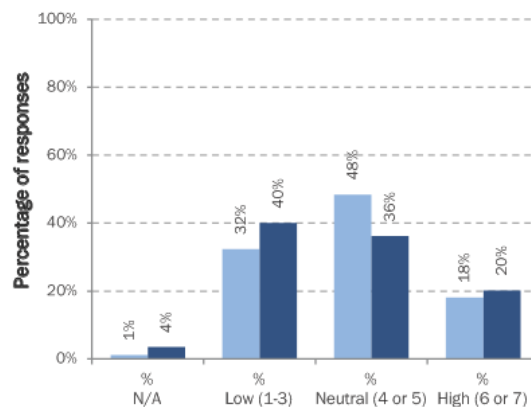
4.25(-0.44)



Footpaths

2017 Performance score:

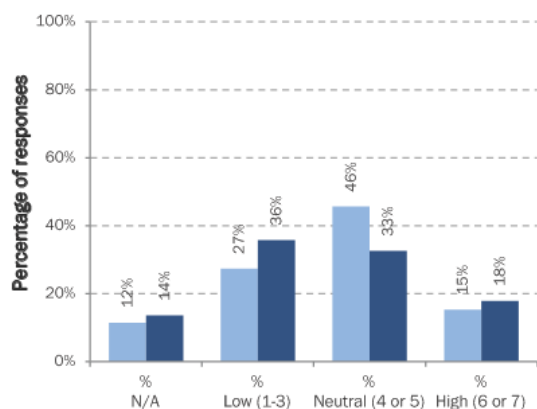
3.76(-0.30)



Protection of local character

2017 Performance score:

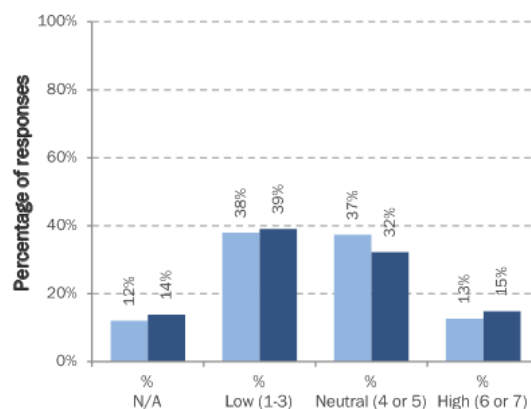
3.77(-0.76)



Land use planning

2017 Performance score:

3.56(-0.66)



Legend:

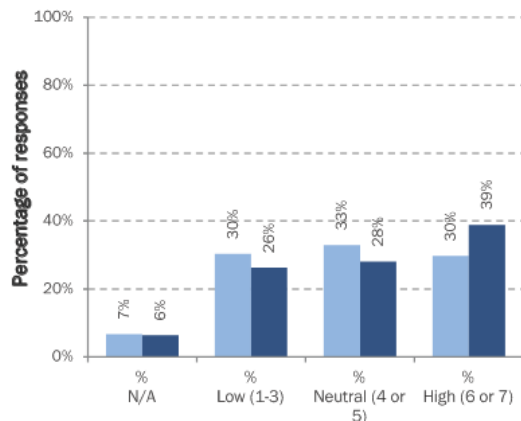
Trend over time 2016 2017

Environment (Continued)

Riverfront development and accessibility

2017 Performance score:

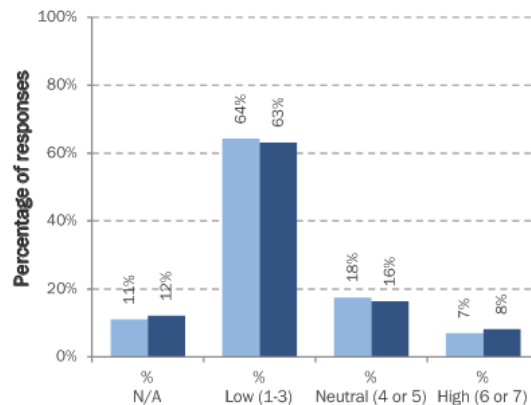
4.67(+0.12)



Rail services and infrastructure

2017 Performance score:

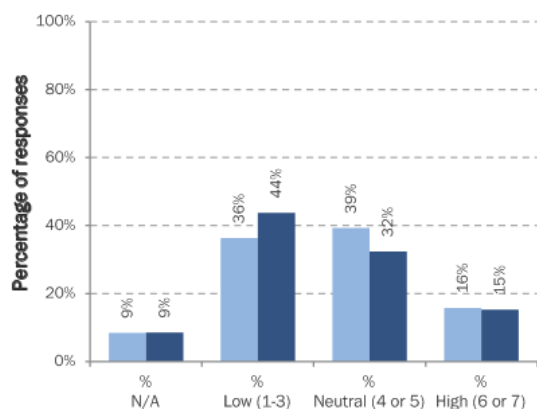
2.52(-0.59)



Road transport services and infrastructure

2017 Performance score:

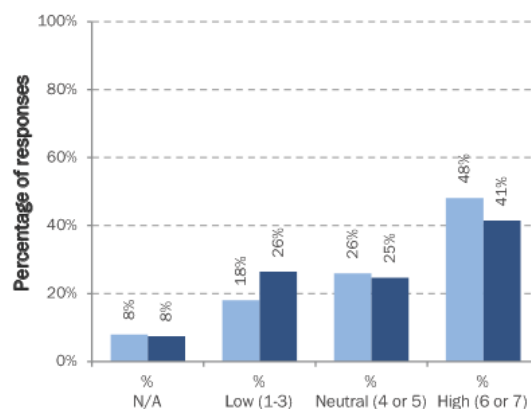
3.61(-0.46)



Air transport services and infrastructure

2017 Performance score:

4.68(-0.55)



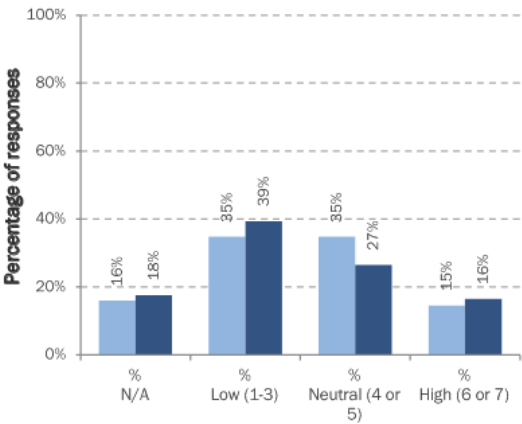
Legend:

Trend over time 2016 2017

Environment (Continued)

Public transport

2017 Performance score: 3.63(-0.72)



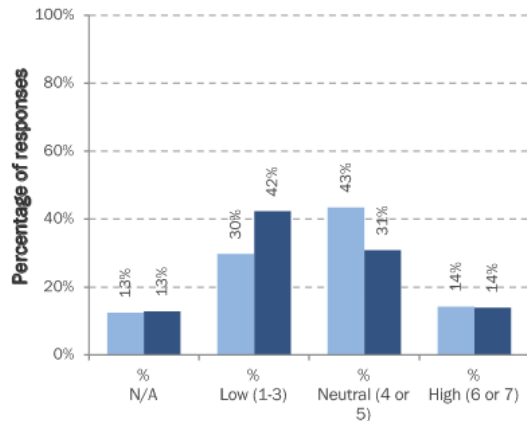
Legend:
 Trend over time 2016 2017

Economy

Encouragement and growth of business and industry

2017 Performance score:

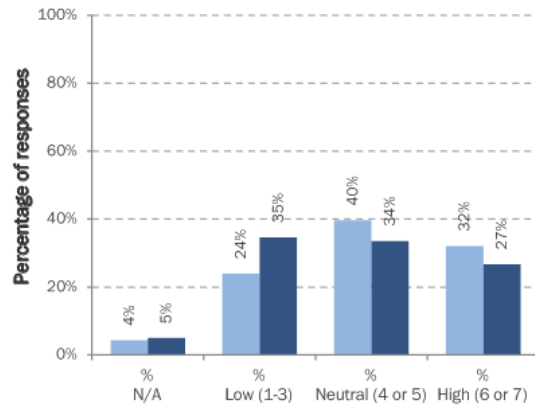
3.59(-0.91)



Festivals and major events

2017 Performance score:

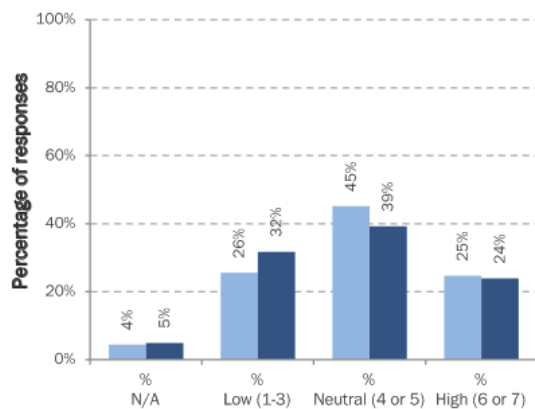
4.19(-0.53)



Small community events

2017 Performance score:

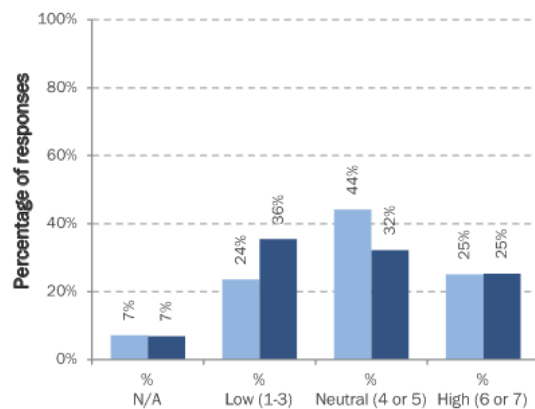
4.11(-0.46)



Tourism services

2017 Performance score:

4.14(-0.56)



Legend:

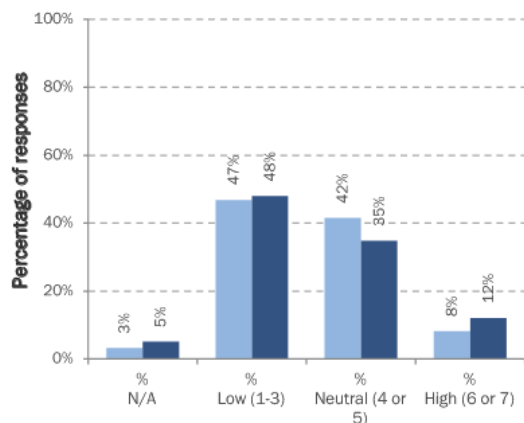
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Council

Performance of the elected Council

2017 Performance score:

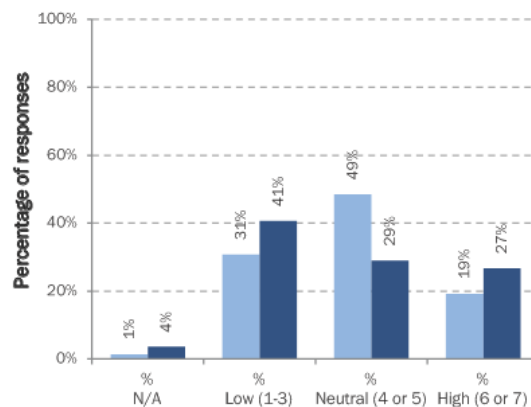
3.30(-0.16)



Information Council provides about its services

2017 Performance score:

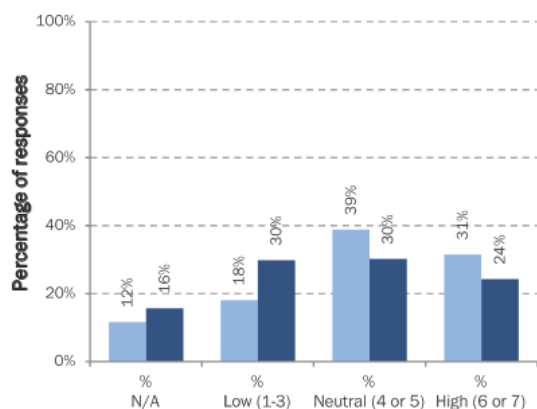
3.92(-0.26)



Council's website

2017 Performance score:

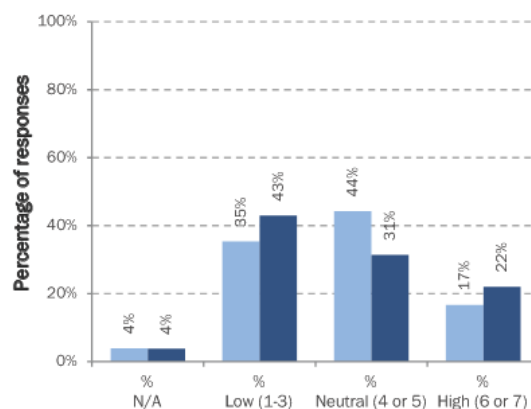
4.13(-0.94)



Overall communication from Council

2017 Performance score:

3.66(-0.41)



Legend:

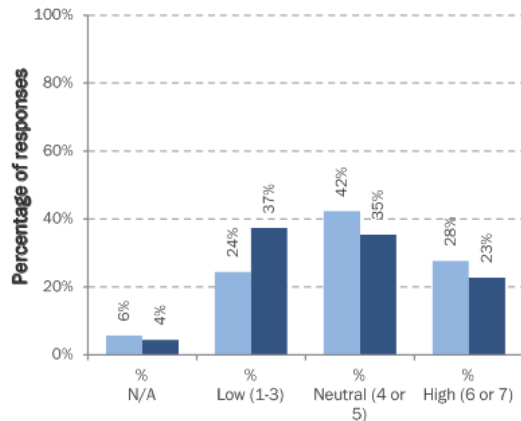
Trend over time 2016 2017

Council (continued)

Council newsletters and publications

2017 Performance score:

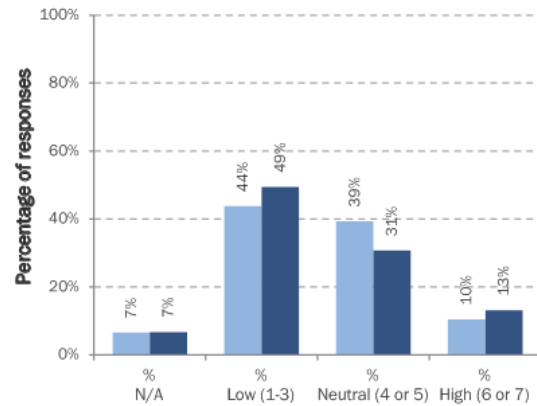
3.94(-0.68)



Council's engagement in decision making

2017 Performance score:

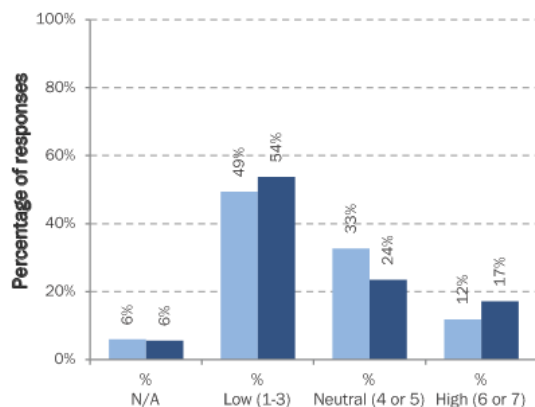
3.24(-0.46)



Council's responsiveness to community input and feedback

2017 Performance score:

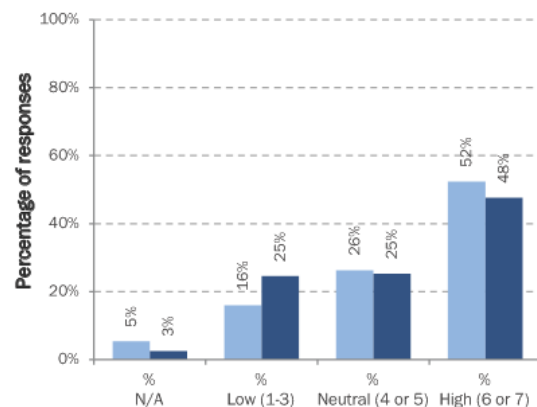
3.16(-0.39)



General courtesy of Council staff

2017 Performance score:

4.79(-0.48)



Legend:

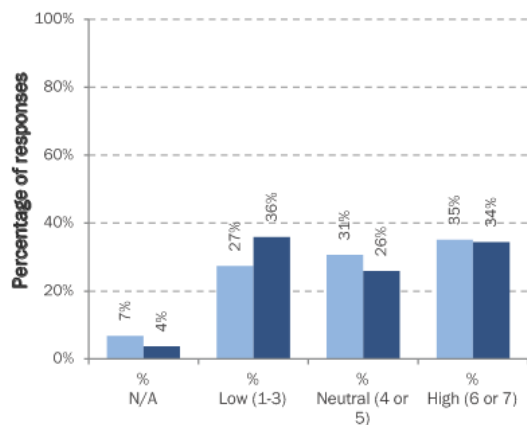
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Council (continued)

General effectiveness of Council staff

2017 Performance score:

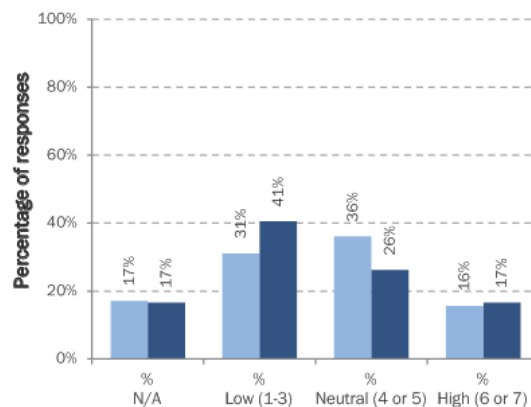
4.22(-0.46)



Responsiveness to complaints

2017 Performance score:

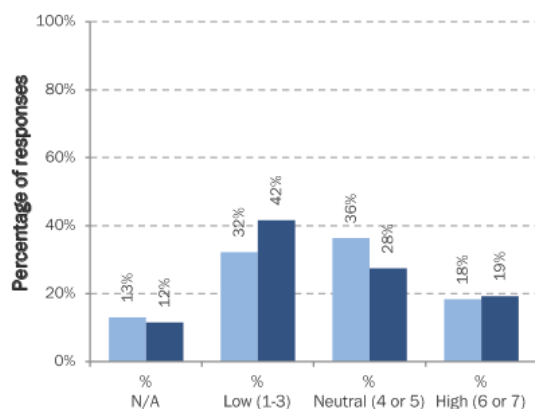
3.48(-1.13)



Responsiveness to requests

2017 Performance score:

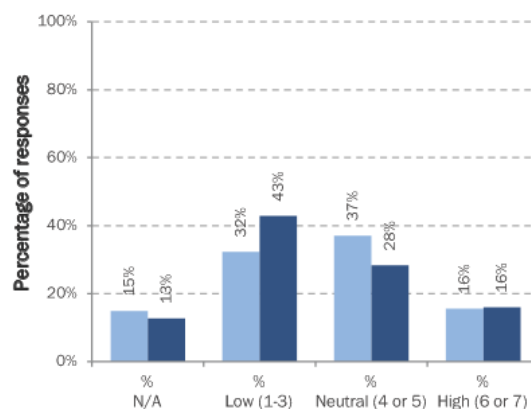
3.55(-0.93)



Accessibility to whole of Council

2017 Performance score:

3.49(-1.04)



Legend:

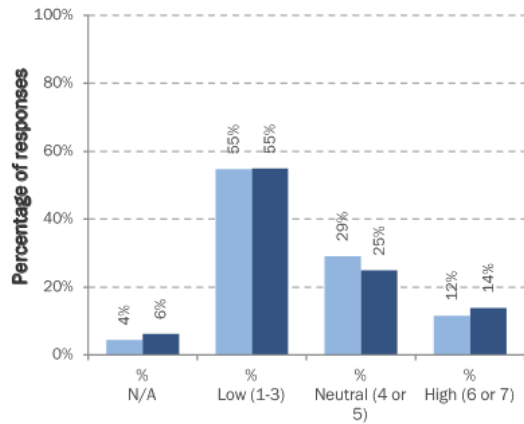
Trend over time ■ 2016 ■ 2017

Council (continued)

Value for money

2017 Performance score:

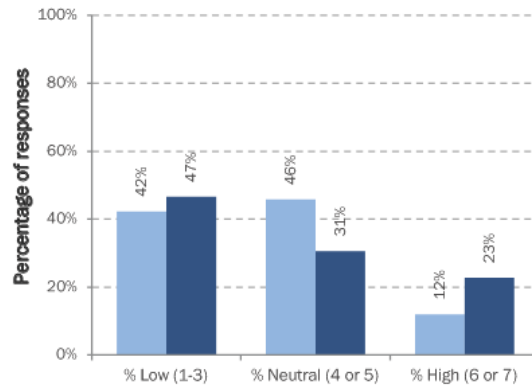
3.04(-0.31)



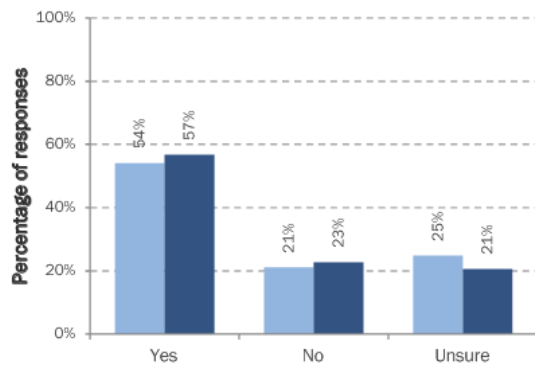
Overall satisfaction with the performance of Council

2016 Satisfaction score:

3.64(-0.01)



Would you recommend Mildura Rural City as a place to live?



Legend:

Trend over time 2016 2017

14.6 ROAD NAMING - ARMSTRONG LANE

File Number: 04/02/11
Officer: General Manager Corporate

1. Summary

The purpose of this report is to seek Council's resolution to officially name an unnamed road at Red Cliffs, Armstrong Lane.

2. Recommendation

That Council approve for the identified road to be named Armstrong Lane and be registered in Vicnames accordingly.

3. Background

Council was approached by a resident along this road to request a formal street address to assist in receiving services and to ensure emergency services are able to locate the property.

Under the Naming rules for places in Victoria (formerly known as the Guidelines for Geographic Names) Principles (A) Ensuring public safety, (B) Recognising the public interest and (H) Using commemorative names, the decision was made to undertake a naming process.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

Letters were sent to adjoining owners and users of the roadway advising them of the proposal and an advertisement placed in the Mildura Weekly public notices for wider community comment, with 30 days allowed for any submissions to be lodged in regard to the proposal. No submissions were received.

Margot McKinnon, daughter of T.H.W Armstrong contacted Council and on behalf of the Armstrong family has given consent to use the name Armstrong.

5. Discussion

As identified on the attached maps, it is proposed following a consultative process that the road in question be named and registered in Vicnames.

The name T.H.W Armstrong appears on old parish plans of Red Cliffs on land adjoining this roadway.

Margot McKinnon, daughter of T.H.W Armstrong (Tommy), has given her consent and would be honoured to have this road named after him. Tommy served in both WW1 and WW2 before returning to the area and working the block with his wife and children.

6. Time Frame

There are no timing issues associated with adopting this proposal as all consultative advertising and statutory time lines for responses have now passed.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

1.1 Community Safety

Goal to be achieved:

- a community well prepared for emergencies.

2.4 Infrastructure, Assets and Facilities

Goal to be achieved:

- well planned and maintained buildings and facilities.

4.2 Communication and Engagement

Goal to be achieved:

- responsive to community input and feedback.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There are no asset management policy or plan implications relating to this report.

9. Implications

Policy

There are no policy implications associated with this report.

Legal/Statutory

All principles, policies and procedures have been carried out in accordance with the naming rules for places in Victoria.

Financial

The costs involved are restricted to staff time already built into the operational budgets.

Environmental

There are no environmental implications associated with this report.

Social

There are no social implications associated with this report.

Economic

There are no economic implications associated with this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk.

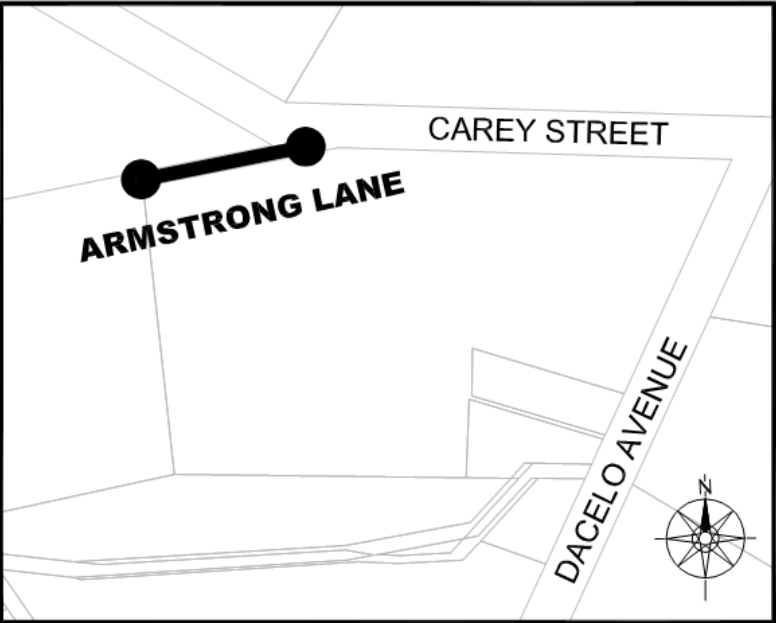
11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1** Proposed Road Naming - Armstrong Lane

Proposed Road Naming - Armstrong Lane, Red Cliffs



Last Updated: 31.05.17

14.7 AMEND DESIGN OF APPROVED LOTS AND INCLUDE THE USE AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE LAND FOR A DWELLING ON LOT 2

File Number: 005.2017.00000045.001
Officer: General Manager Development

1. Summary

Date Received:	17 May 2017
Subject Property:	588 Wentworth Road YELTA (Lot 1 PS 412216E Sec G Parish of Merbein, LOT: 2 PS: 412216E, CA: 6A Sec: G Psh: MERBEIN
Proposed Use/Development:	Amend design of approved lots and include the use and development of the land for a dwelling on Lot 2.
Zone:	Farming Zone Public Conservation and Resource Zone
Overlays:	Abuts Road Zone Category 1
Applicant:	Fisher Planning
Application Triggers:	<p>Clause 35.07-2 A permit is required for the use of the land for a dwelling.</p> <p>Clause 35.07-3 A permit is required to subdivide land</p> <p>Clause 35.07-4 A permit is required for buildings and works associated with a Section 2 Use.</p> <p>Clause 36.03-2 A permit is required to subdivide land</p>
Relevant Provisions:	<p>Clause 11.05-3 Rural productivity</p> <p>Clause 14.01 Agriculture</p> <p>Clause 21.06-1 Protection of rural land</p> <p>Clause 21.08-1 Agriculture</p> <p>Clause 35.07 Farming Zone</p> <p>Clause 36.03-2 Public Conservation and Resource Zone</p> <p>Clause 64.03 Subdivision of land in 2 zones</p> <p>Clause 65 Decision Guidelines</p> <p>Clause 66.01-1 Mandatory conditions for subdivision permits</p>
Objections Received	Nil

An amendment to Planning permit 005.2017.00000045.001 was lodged with Council on 17 May 2017

The amendment proposes a re-design of the approved subdivision as well as to include the use and development of a dwelling on proposed Lot 2.

The original application was recommended for refusal under delegation but was approved at a full Council meeting.

The re-design of lots has been requested to meet the 30 metre building setback from Crown Land condition required by DELWP as part of the original approval. It is noted that DELWP now require a 40 metre setback after being referred the amended application pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987

2. Recommendation

That Council having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to Refuse to Grant an Amendment to the Planning Permit on the following grounds:

- i. **The proposal does not meet the strategies of the State Planning Policy at Clause 11.11-3 Agricultural Productivity as it does not protect productive farmland.**
- ii. **The proposal does not meet the strategies of the State Planning Policy at Clause 14.01-1 Protection of agricultural land, as this policy seeks to minimise urban intrusion into horticultural areas.**
- iii. **The proposal does not meet the strategies of the Local Planning Policy at Clause 21.08-1 Agriculture.**
- iv. **The proposal does not meet the purpose of the Farming Zone at Clause 35.07 which is:**
 - ***To provide for the use of land for agriculture;***
 - ***To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land; and***
 - ***To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture***

3. Time Frame

Outline key dates

Application Received	17 May 2017
Further Information Requested:	19 May 2017
Further Information Received:	9 June 2017
Application Notified	26 June 2017
Planning Referral Committee Meeting	24 July 2017

The application was referred to the Planning Referral Committee who supported the recommendation for refusal.

4. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Area:

2.5 Strategic Land Use

Goal to be achieved:

- a well-developed long-term land use vision.

5. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

This is not relevant to the subject application.

6. Implications - Assessment of the Application

Policy Implications

The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF), Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) and the Planning Scheme Revisions are discussed in the attached report.

Legal/Statutory Implications

Council is required to determine the application pursuant to Section 61 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987. Council's decision is subject to possible review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal (VCAT).

Financial Implications

All relevant fees have been paid. In the event of an application for review by VCAT, each party will be required to bear their own costs.

Environmental Implications

As detailed in the Assessment of the Application

Social Implications

As detailed in the Assessment of the Application

Economic Implications

As detailed in the Assessment of the Application.

7. Risk Assessment

Council's decision is subject to possible review by the Victorian Civil and Administrative Tribunal. In the event of an application for review by VCAT, each party will be required to bear their own costs.

8. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

- 1 Planning Delegation Report
- 2 Site Photos
- 3 Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit

MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL
STATUTORY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

PLANNING DELEGATION REPORT – Amended Plans/Permit

Application Number

005.2017.00000045.002

Received Date

17 May 2017

Applicant

Fisher Planning

Subject property (Parcel No/s 29293, 24225, 36533)

588 Wentworth Road YELTA

(Lot 1 PS 412216E Sec G Parish of Merbein, CA: 6A Sec: G Psh: MERBEIN, LOT: 2 PS: 412216E)

Proposal

3 Lot Subdivision (re-subdivision of existing lots) and use and development of a dwelling on proposed Lot 2.

Zones/Overlays

Farming Zone

Before deciding on an application to amend a permit or plans Council must consider the requirements of Clause 72 of the Planning and Environment Act, 1987, which states:

72. Application for amendment of permit

A person who is entitled to use or develop land in accordance with a permit may apply to the responsible authority for an amendment to the permit.

This section does not apply to –

- (a) a permit issued at the direction of the Tribunal; or
- (b) a permit issued under Division 6.

(3) In this section a reference to a permit includes any plans, drawings or other documents approved under the permit.

73. What is the procedure for the application

(1) Subject to this section, sections 47 to 62 (with any necessary changes) apply to an application to the responsible authority to amend a permit.

Was the matter decided by VCAT?

No

Does the requested change alter any conditions of a referral authority?

Yes

Does the requested change affect the interests of a referral authority?

Yes

Is the amendment consistent with the current planning scheme?

Yes

Was a written request detailing the nature of the requested change submitted?

Yes

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NATURE OF THE REQUEST

Fisher Planning on behalf of the landowner have requested an amendment to planning permit 005.2017.00000045.001. The amendment proposes a re-design of the approved subdivision as well as for the use and development of a dwelling on proposed Lot 2.

Has the applicant completed the required forms?

The applicant has completed the required form and paid the appropriate advertising fee.

Is the Permit still Valid?

The permit was issued on 4 May 2017 and is still valid.

Has there been any change to the Planning Scheme Zone, Overlay or Policy since the permit issued?

There has been no changes to the Planning Scheme, Overlay or Policy since the permit was issued in May 2017.

Public Notification

The application has been advertised pursuant to Section 52 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, by:

- Sending notices to the owners and occupiers of adjoining land.
- Placing a sign on site

The notification has been carried out correctly. No objections have been received to date.

Assessment**Clause 35.07 Farming Zone****Purpose**

- *To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *To provide for the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land.*
- *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture.*
- *To encourage the retention of employment and population to support rural communities.*
- *To encourage use and development of land based on comprehensive and sustainable land management practices and infrastructure provision.*

The proposed amendment will result in two rural residential allotments and a dwelling on Lot 2. The original application did not meet the purpose of the Farming Zone nor does this amendment as will be discussed more fully in the body of this report.

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Clause 35.07-3 Subdivision

A permit is required to subdivide land.

- *Each lot must be at least the area specified for the land in a schedule to this zone. If no area is specified, each lot must be at least 40 hectares.*

A permit may be granted to create smaller lots if any of the following apply:

- *The subdivision is the re-subdivision of existing lots and the number of lots is not increased*

This amendment to the previously approved lot locations and design was requested by the applicant in order to comply with the setback distances from Crown land required by the Department Environment, Land, Water and Planning (DELWP). The original application proposed a re-subdivision of existing lots and as a result complies with the above mentioned dot point.

The subject site is located outside the boundary identifying the Mildura Older Irrigation Area.

Clause 35.07-6 Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application to use or subdivide land, construct a building or construct or carry out works, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

General issues

- *The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *Any Regional Catchment Strategy and associated plan applying to the land.*
- *The capability of the land to accommodate the proposed use or development, including the disposal of effluent.*
- *How the use or development relates to sustainable land management.*
- *Whether the site is suitable for the use or development and whether the proposal is compatible with adjoining and nearby land uses.*
- *How the use and development makes use of existing infrastructure and services.*

The State and Local Planning Policies have been addressed elsewhere in this report. There are no Regional Catchment Strategies applying to the land.

The relevant land capability assessments have been lodged with Council and assessed by the Environmental Health Department. The Septic Tank Code of Practice requires a 60 metre buffer between the water way (high tide line) and the waste water reserve area which has been included in the documents provided.

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The amendment to the endorsed plan and the addition of a dwelling could result in land use conflicts with surrounding horticultural uses. This issue is further exacerbated with DELWP conditions now requiring that any future buildings and works must be set a minimum of 40 metres from the crown land boundary (previously 30 metres) meaning that appropriate buffers cannot be maintained between the rural residential use and the adjoining horticultural allotment. Given that the longest boundary of the site is 95 metres from the crown land and the proposed dwelling will be 23.2 metres wide the furthest the proposed dwelling can be setback is 30 metres from the agricultural land to the site. It is also noted that 150 square metres of the site is required to be set aside for absorption trenches which must be located a minimum 60 metres from the waterway.

Agricultural issues and the impacts from non-agricultural uses

- *Whether the use or development will support and enhance agricultural production.*
- *Whether the use or development will adversely affect soil quality or permanently remove land from agricultural production.*
- *The potential for the use or development to limit the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.*
- *The capacity of the site to sustain the agricultural use.*
- *The agricultural qualities of the land, such as soil quality, access to water and access to rural infrastructure.*
- *Any integrated land management plan prepared for the site.*

In the original application the application stated that proposed Lot 2 & 3 would be planted to citrus. Given now that the a amendment to the permit has been lodged to include a dwelling on Lot 2 it is clear that the proposal will not result in a sustainable farming outcome that either supports or enhances agricultural production but will instead provide for the lots to be sold for rural residential purposes.

Dwelling issues

- *Whether the dwelling will result in the loss or fragmentation of productive agricultural land.*
- *Whether the dwelling will be adversely affected by agricultural activities on adjacent and nearby land due to dust, noise, odour, use of chemicals and farm machinery, traffic and hours of operation.*
- *Whether the dwelling will adversely affect the operation and expansion of adjoining and nearby agricultural uses.*
- *The potential for the proposal to lead to a concentration or proliferation of dwellings in the area and the impact of this on the use of the land for agriculture*

The amendment has requested the inclusion of a dwelling on Lot 2 which clearly does not meet the purpose of the zone nor State or Local Planning Policies.

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As no buildings are allowed to be sited less than 40 metres from the Crown land boundary any dwellings on the small lots would have a maximum side setback from the adjoining horticultural allotment of approximately 30 metres (less if a larger house is proposed). As a result land conflict issues may arise between the dwelling use and the adjacent agricultural use in relation to noise, odour, and dust and spray drift.

Allowing a dwelling on the site would artificially inflate the value of the land from agricultural to residential values which decreases the likelihood of the land being incorporated into the adjoining horticultural allotment by the landowner for full scale horticultural production

Environmental issues

- *The impact of the proposal on the natural physical features and resources of the area, in particular on soil and water quality.*
- *The impact of the use or development on the flora and fauna on the site and its surrounds.*
- *The need to protect and enhance the biodiversity of the area, including the retention of vegetation and faunal habitat and the need to revegetate land including riparian buffers along waterways, gullies, ridgelines, property boundaries and saline discharge and recharge area.*
- *The location of on-site effluent disposal areas to minimise the impact of nutrient loads on waterways and native vegetation.*

The proposed amendment to include a dwelling is considered to impact upon the natural and physical features and resources of the area, as the nature of the land use will change from horticulture to rural living.

Design and siting issues

- *The need to locate buildings in one area to avoid any adverse impacts on surrounding agricultural uses and to minimise the loss of productive agricultural land.*
- *The impact of the siting, design, height, bulk, colours and materials to be used, on the natural environment, major roads, vistas and water features and the measures to be undertaken to minimise any adverse impacts.*
- *The impact on the character and appearance of the area or features of architectural, historic or scientific significance or of natural scenic beauty or importance.*
- *The location and design of existing and proposed infrastructure including roads, gas, water, drainage, telecommunications and sewerage facilities.*
- *Whether the use and development will require traffic management measures*

Given the size of the lot it is considered unlikely that an agricultural use would be undertaken on the land, notwithstanding this issue, the dwelling has been sited toward the southern boundary of the site which while minimising the loss of productive agricultural land may increase land use conflict between the dwelling owners and the adjacent horticultural allotment. The site is

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located close to a natural reserve and Billabong, however in order to minimise any impacts on the waterway or bushland DELWP have required all building to be sited 40 metres from the crown land boundary.

Clause 36.03-2 Public Conservation and Resource Zone**Purpose**

To implement the State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.

To protect and conserve the natural environment and natural processes for their historic, scientific, landscape, habitat or cultural values.

To provide facilities which assist in public education and interpretation of the natural environment with minimal degradation of the natural environment or natural processes.

To provide for appropriate resource based uses

Clause 36.03-3 A permit is required to subdivide land**Clause 36.03-3 Application requirements**

An application for a permit by a person other than the relevant public land manager must be accompanied by the written consent of the public land manager, indicating that the public land manager consents generally or conditionally either:

- *To the application for permit being made.*
- *To the application for permit being made and to the proposed use or development.*

Where there is no public land manager, an application for a permit must be accompanied by the written consent of the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning or the Secretary to the Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources.

Written consent was received from the Secretary to the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning to the application being made was received with the first application. This consent included a dwelling. This consent is not an approval of the application but purely permission to lodge the application with Council.

Clause 36.03-6 Decision guidelines

Before deciding on an application to use or subdivide land, construct a building or construct or carry out works, in addition to the decision guidelines in Clause 65, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- *The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*

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- *The comments of any public land manager or other relevant land manager having responsibility for the care or management of the land or adjacent land.*

The State and Local Planning Policy Frameworks have been addressed elsewhere in this report. Consent to the application being made was confirmed by DEWLP in their letter dated 26 June 2017.

Council's Strategic Planning Department have also advised that the zoning anomaly and recommendation has been made to rezone the land to Rural Conservation Zone as part of the upcoming Planning Scheme Amendment C94.

The State Planning Policy Framework (SPPF)
Objective

Clause 16.02-1 Rural Residential Development of the SPPF is relevant and has the following objective:

"To identify land suitable for rural living and rural residential development."

Comment:

The proposed amendment will allow for a dwelling to be developed in the Farming Zone with no intrinsic link to horticulture.

In the recent VCAT decision *Keen & Ors v Mildura RCC* [2017] VCAT 219 Member Cimino re-enforced the importance of the protection of agricultural land within the district and stated *"Planning policy also clearly and unequivocally calls for the protection of Mildura's productive agricultural land. The overall loss of productive land is relatively small. However, the continued incremental loss of agricultural land is the problem that planning policy is seeking to prevent"*

It is clear from the above discussions that planning policy seeks to prevent any loss of productive agricultural land and allowing a dwelling on a small lot in area clearly contravenes State and Local Planning Policy in relation to non-agricultural uses in the Farming Zone and represents only an opportunistic attempt at developing a further dwelling.

This position has been further supported by a number of other VCAT decisions including *Kennedy v Ballarat CC* [2015] VCAT 1396 (7 September 2015) in which Member Whitney in determining to uphold Council's decision to refuse a dwelling in the Farming Zone made a number of significant points including:

"The clear intention of the FZ and the relevant policy is to protect productive agricultural land from unplanned loss through permanent changes of land use and inappropriate use and

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development and for rural residential properties that do not support and enhance agricultural production on the land to be located in areas other than the FZ.

I am not persuaded that the proposal is an acceptable planning outcome, having regard to the purposes of the FZ and the clear direction of Local and State Planning Policy with regards to the protection of productive agricultural land.

The site is of a 'very high' agricultural class and is therefore of significant value as a potentially highly productive agricultural parcel. In such circumstances, I consider that a strong case would need to be made out to establish that, on balance, it was appropriate to set aside productive agricultural land for essentially residential purposes rather than retaining that area as land available for productive agricultural purposes. On the material before me, I do not consider that this case has been made out"

VCAT decision *Roy Costa and Associates v Mildura RCC* [2007] VCAT 1244 (11 July 2007) again raised the issues associated with cresting dwelling opportunities within the Farming Zone. In discussing this matter Member Cimino made the following comments:

"A further point to be made relates to expectations about the development of dwellings on these sites. It is difficult not to come to the conclusion that the proposals in these cases are being driven by a belief that there is an entitlement to have a dwelling on every lot in a farming area as a matter of course. This belief is wrong and misguided.

Unless the lot is the minimum size required under the schedule to the zone [10ha], the use and development of a "dwelling" is not "as of right" in the Farming Zone. "Dwelling" is not an as of right use on any of the lots. "Dwelling" is not a use that advances the outcome sought by planning policy or the purpose of the zone as a matter of course. There is a place for dwellings in rural areas when they are associated with rural use and production, but as noted by the tribunal in Parkworth, dwellings associated with hobby farm and rural residential lifestyle pursuits can have detrimental consequences"

VCAT decision *Bourke-Finn v Ballarat Cc & Anor* [2013] VCAT 908 further discourages the creation of small lots within the Farming Zone as outlined below:

"A fundamental purpose of the Farming Zone is to ensure that land is retained for productive and sustainable agricultural use. To that end, another purpose of the zone is to ensure that non-agricultural uses such as a dwelling do not frustrate such outcomes. State planning policy supports these outcomes by seeking to:

- o Prevent inappropriate dispersal of urban activity by limiting new housing and encouraging consolidation of small lots in rural zones.^[4]*
- o Protect productive farmland of state or local strategic significance by preventing loss through permanent land use changes.*

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- Address the impact of a non-agricultural development in farming areas that conflict with the productive use of such land.^[5]
- Encourage sustainable agricultural land use through the management of existing natural resources, supporting and assisting innovative approaches to sustainable practices and supporting effective agricultural management and genuine farming enterprises that are adjusting to market changes.^[6]

In short having regard to the first three of the above points, it can be seen that State policy seeks to avoid the use of agricultural/farming land from rural lifestyle living”.

The above decisions provide sufficient guidance from the tribunal that refusing this application is the only responsible outcome. On each occasion the Member reinforces the importance of agriculture to the State’s economy and the role Council’s play in protecting agricultural land from fragmentation and non agricultural uses.

The Local Planning Policy Framework (LPPF) - including the Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) and local planning policies

Numerous local policies discuss the importance of maintaining and protecting agricultural land within both the Mildura Older Irrigated Area (MOIAO and New Irrigated Area (NIA)

The Municipal Strategic Statement (MSS) states

Mildura Rural City is nationally and internationally significant in terms of horticultural output. The local economy is mainly driven by horticultural industries and their value added activities such as packaging and processing.¹

Significant agriculture and horticulture sectors generate economic activity in other sectors such as manufacturing, wholesale trade, transport and storage. The protection of agricultural and horticultural land is important, particularly in the Mildura Older Irrigated Areas (MOIA) and newer irrigated areas (NIA).

Following on from this, Clause 21.02-1 identifies the critical importance of protecting agricultural land for agricultural purposes, in order to support the economic base of the municipality and places significant weight on the protection of irrigated horticultural land given its importance particularly in the Mildura Older Irrigated Areas (MOIA) and Newer Irrigated Area (NIA). The proposed amendment will allow for an additional dwelling opportunity within the Farming Zone with no intrinsic link to agriculture clearly does not meet the purpose of the MSS.

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Clause 21.08-1 Agriculture**Overview**

Mildura Rural City is nationally and internationally significant in terms of its horticultural output. The local economy is mainly driven by horticultural industries and their value added activities, such as packaging and processing. Dryland farming provides economic diversity and important regional income.

There are two broad agricultural areas in the municipality. They are:

- Horticultural Areas Located in the northern irrigated areas (Mildura Older Irrigation Area and Newer Irrigation Areas) consisting mainly of dried vine fruit, wine grapes, table grapes, citrus and vegetable production.*
- Dryland Agricultural Area Located to the south and north of the Murray Sunset National Park, consisting mainly of mixed cereal, sheep, some grain and pasture legumes, wool and beef production.*

The total value of production from agricultural areas in the municipality in 2007 – 2008 was approximately \$345M. In 2008 the region contributed:

- 20% of the total Australian wine grape crush;*
- 74% of the total Australian table grape pick;*
- 98% of the total Australian dried grape pick; and*
- 24% of the total Australian citrus crop.*

In 2008 dryland farming areas contributed over \$300M in grain growing and \$7M in livestock.

There is potential to expand agricultural and horticultural production throughout the municipality. Realising this potential in a responsible manner by ensuring ecological and agricultural sustainability will bring added and continued wealth to the local economy and residents of the municipality. The protection of agricultural land from urban encroachment including the small lot subdivision of horticultural properties is important.

It is considered that the proposed amendment facilitates the ability for further development (dwelling) to occur in the Farming Zone given the location of the lot containing views to the Murray River (favourable for residential development), which clearly does not protect agricultural land from further development.

Objective 1

To support the continued development of sustainable agricultural and horticultural industries as the foundation of a strong and prosperous economy.

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Strategies

- Strategy 1.1 Minimise unplanned urban intrusion into horticultural areas.*
- Strategy 1.4 Apply minimum subdivision lot sizes in rural areas to facilitate farm consolidation and reflect a viable unit of production.*
- Strategy 1.5 Discourage the excision of smaller lots in horticultural areas.*
- Strategy 1.8 Ensure that future subdivision of agricultural land is based on sustainable farming methods and sustainable environmental grounds.*

Strategy 1.1

It is not strategically beneficial to the State and municipality's horticultural industry to approve proposals which create small rural residential allotments. The proposed subdivision and dwelling on Lot 2 does not utilise any sustainable land management practices and results in two small lots which will have no link to agriculture.

Strategy 1.4

No consolidation of the land has been stipulated in the application and given their location next to a road and the River Murray this would appear highly unlikely. The primary purpose of the application is to create an additional rural residential allotment for the economic benefit of the landowner.

Strategy 1.5

The subject site is located in a horticultural area and results in two small lots which have the capacity to be sold for rural residential purposes. This would be further exacerbated by the amendment of the permit to include a dwelling on Lot 2.

The proposed subdivision does not support strategy 1.5 of the local planning policy.

Strategy 1.8

The proposed amendment is not based on any sustainable farm management methods, therefore is not considered to support strategy 1.8 of the local planning policy for the following reasons:

Agriculture, forestry and fishing were the highest ranking employment industries and industries contributing to the Mildura Regional Gross Regional Production (2007-2008). Whilst these figures are based on figures generated from the Australian Bureau of Statistics 2008, it is considered that agriculture remains as the major and predominant industry in the Mildura region.

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STATUTORY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

Overall, given the points mentioned above and taking into consideration the Mildura Economic Profile, Mildura Development Corporation 2009, the proposal does not support the Local Planning Policy Framework of Clause 21.08-1 Agriculture.

Relevant Particular Provisions

There are no particular provisions relating to this application.

The decision guidelines of Clause 65**Clause 65 Decision Guidelines**

Because a permit can be granted does not imply that a permit should or will be granted. The responsible authority must decide whether the proposal will produce acceptable outcomes in terms of the decision guidelines of this clause.

Clause 65.01 Approval of an application or plan

Before deciding on an application or approval of a plan, the responsible authority must consider, as appropriate:

- *The matters set out in Section 60 of the Act.*
- *The State Planning Policy Framework and the Local Planning Policy Framework, including the Municipal Strategic Statement and local planning policies.*
- *The purpose of the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *Any matter required to be considered in the zone, overlay or other provision.*
- *The orderly planning of the area.*
- *The effect on the amenity of the area.*
- *The proximity of the land to any public land.*
- *Factors likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reduce water quality.*
- *Whether the proposed development is designed to maintain or improve the quality of stormwater within and exiting the site.*
- *The extent and character of native vegetation and the likelihood of its destruction.*
- *Whether native vegetation is to be or can be protected, planted or allowed to regenerate.*
- *The degree of flood, erosion or fire hazard associated with the location of the land and the use, development or management of the land so as to minimise any such hazard.*

The application was notified to adjoining landowners and referral authorities. No objections were received, however significant conditions would be required to be placed on any permit issued due to the proximity of the lots to Crown Land.

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The State and Local Planning policies have been considered and are discussed elsewhere in this report. The proposed amendment to include a dwelling is contrary to the State and Local planning policy framework and does not contribute positively towards the Farming Zone.

The purpose of the Farming Zone has been assessed and is discussed above. The application is not consistent with the purpose of the Farming Zone.

The approval of an additional dwelling will have an effect in the amenity of the area through land use conflicts with the surrounding horticultural properties.

The subject site adjoins land located in the Public Conservation and Resource Zone and is located approximately 500 metres from the Murray River.

There are no factors identified with the location of the site or the alteration to the plan of subdivision that are likely to cause or contribute to land degradation, salinity or reducing water quality. However the dwellings may have an effect on the water quality of the Billabong.

There is no native vegetation located on the site and there are no flood, erosion or fire hazards identified with the subject land or as a result of the proposed amendment to the plan of subdivision.

Clause 65.02 Approval of an application to subdivide land

Before deciding on an application to subdivide land, the responsible authority must also consider, as appropriate:

- *The suitability of the land for subdivision.*
- *The existing use and possible future development of the land and nearby land.*
- *The availability of subdivided land in the locality, and the need for the creation of further lots.*
- *The effect of development on the use or development of other land which has a common means of drainage.*
- *The subdivision pattern having regard to the physical characteristics of the land including existing vegetation.*
- *The density of the proposed development.*
- *The area and dimensions of each lot in the subdivision.*
- *The layout of roads having regard to their function and relationship to existing roads.*
- *The movement of pedestrians and vehicles throughout the subdivision and the ease of access to all lots.*
- *The provision and location of reserves for public open space and other community facilities.*
- *The staging of the subdivision.*
- *The design and siting of buildings having regard to safety and the risk of spread of fire.*

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- *The provision of off-street parking.*
- *The provision and location of common property.*
- *The functions of any body corporate.*
- *The availability and provision of utility services, including water, sewerage, drainage, electricity and gas.*
- *If the land is not sewered and no provision has been made for the land to be sewered, the capacity of the land to treat and retain all sewage and sullage within the boundaries of each lot.*
- *Whether, in relation to subdivision plans, native vegetation can be protected through subdivision and siting of open space areas.*

The subdivision results in the creation of small lots for rural residential purposes and therefore is not considered to be a suitable outcome as was discussed in the original planning application.

The land is located in the Farming Zone and is not located within any development plans or overlays, therefore the current and future use of the land and the surrounding area will continue to be farming.

Other relevant adopted State policies/strategies – (e.g. Melbourne 2030.)

There are no other relevant adopted state policies or strategies pertinent to the assessment of this application.

Relevant incorporated or reference documents

There are no relevant incorporated or reference documents.

Relevant Planning Scheme amendments

Planning Scheme Amendment C89.

While the site is outside the MOIA the Minister's comments in relation to the creation of small lots are still valid as outlined earlier in this report.

MILDURA RURAL CITY COUNCIL

STATUTORY PLANNING DEPARTMENT

REFERRALS

External Referrals/Notices Required by the Planning Scheme:

Referrals/Notice	Advice/Response/Conditions
Section 55 Referrals	Nil
Section 52 notices	<p>DELWP</p> <p>No access is permitted to the subject land via the Crown land for construction purposes.</p> <p>2. Adjoining Crown land must not be used for truck turning areas, entry points, parking areas or temporary stack sites during the construction of buildings and works.</p> <p>3. Future drainage on the subject land must be managed to prevent erosion of the adjoining Crown land. Rob McGlashan from Parks Victoria should be contacted to discuss this matter (Phone: 0428 315 139)</p> <p>4. No storm water is to be discharged to the adjoining Crown land without the written consent of DELWP and to the satisfaction of Parks Victoria.</p> <p>5. There are to be no dwellings or buildings constructed within 40 metres of the Crown land boundary.</p> <p>Lower Murray Water</p> <p>The plan of subdivision submitted for certification under the Subdivision Act 1988 must be referred to Lower Murray Water pursuant to Section 8 of that Act.</p> <p>The applicant or owner must lodge a Rural Subdivision Application and complete any requirements necessary to amend the Victorian Water Register and conditions listed by Lower Murray Water related to irrigation and drainage pursuant to Section 11 of the Water Act 1989.</p> <p>VicRoads</p> <p>Thank you for forwarding planning permit application 005.2017.000000453.002 pursuant to Section 52 of the Planning and Environment Act 1987.</p> <p>The referral relates to an Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit for 3 Lot subdivision with a dwelling on Lot 2.</p> <p>If Council regards the proposed development favourably, VicRoads suggests that the following condition is included to address its concerns if Council were inclined to issue a Notice of Decision to issue a Planning Permit;</p> <p>1. No new points of access from Lot 1 to the Calder Highway. 2. Access to Lots 2 & 3 must be from Sylvia Street.</p>

Internal Council Referrals	Advice/Response/Conditions
Engineering	1. Engineering conditions remain the same as per INT-201711957.

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Recommendation

That council having considered all the matters required under Section 60 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* decides to Refuse to Grant a an amendment to the Planning Permit on the following grounds;

- The proposal does not meet the strategies of the State Planning Policy at Clause 11.11-3 Agricultural Productivity as it does not protect productive farmland.
- The proposal does not meet the strategies of the State Planning Policy at Clause 14.01-1 Protection of agricultural land, as this policy seeks to minimise urban intrusion into horticultural areas.
- The proposal does not meet the strategies of the Local Planning Policy at Clause 21.08-1 Agriculture.
- The proposal does not meet the purpose of the Farming Zone at Clause 35.07 which is
 - *To provide for the use of land for agriculture;*
 - *To encourage the retention of productive agricultural land; and*
 - *To ensure that non-agricultural uses, including dwellings, do not adversely affect the use of land for agriculture*





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Mildura VIC 3500
(03) 5021 3474
ABN 43 260 870 071
admin@fisherplanning.com.au
www.fisherplanning.com.au

Our Reference: 1701-02-PP-Hoyle
Your Reference: 005.2017.000000045.001

02 June 2017

Damien Sutton
Coordinator Statutory Planning
Mildura Rural City Council
Madden Avenue
Mildura 3500

Dear Damien

MRCC
RECEIVED

- 2 JUN 2017

File S.2017.45.1

W/Flow DINFO

Act/Off Planning

Security

Copy/Rel

☐ Permanent

☐ 1-10 Years

☒ 11-35 Years

RFI and Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit

I refer to your letter dated 29 May 2017 and previous correspondence and documentation provided by us in relation to the request for further information.

This letter and following information provided must be read in association with:

1. Attached Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit.
2. Three (3) sets of Plan 1 of 2 depicting Site Plan, as dimensioned, sourced from both the Title and proposed re-subdivision. The Plan also depicts requested Elevations of the proposed Dwelling. The colour scheme utilises Dulux Foille as the predominant colour to the bulk of the exterior rendered finish of the Dwelling, whilst both Domain and Brasso are limited use accent colours to detailed reveals, portico and alfresco dining area, whereas Surfmist is the Colorbond roof and facias and contrasting render of colour. The Archistone stone cladding (frontage) is of muted cream and brown tones.



3. Three (3) sets of Plan 2 of 2 depicting the Floor Plan of the proposed four (4) Bedroom Dwelling on proposed Lot 2. The Plan is as dimensioned. The north point depicts the orientation of the Dwelling to optimise passive solar orientation. The LCA report is based on this size of Dwelling with Rheln drains and reserve area located to the north of the Dwelling and does not encroach upon the 60-metre setback from the 'waterway'. Building offset from the proposed boundary will be in accordance with planning scheme requirements and can be stipulated as a condition of approval
4. Although not argued as part of the Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit, as we are not applying for a Dwelling on proposed Lot 3, however it is contended that the existing Dwelling adjacent to the boundary of the Crown Allotment boundary has established existing use rights, refer to the Planning Delegation Report. Should the transfer of those rights not be conferred on proposed Lot 3 in effect two (2) Dwellings would be permitted on the consolidated proposed Lot 1. It would be a practical and reasonable planning outcome to allow the transfer of rights to proposed Lot 3, in time.
5. Other matters referred to in the RFI dated 19 May, not addressed in this letter are self-evident in previous recently submitted information provided, for example, "the location and use of buildings on adjoining land" and "vegetation" and "buildings on the land"?

Should you require further information please do not hesitate to contact Bob Karaszewych on (03) 5021 3474, alternatively email admin@fisherplanning.com.au.

Yours sincerely



Warrick Fisher
Director/Principal Planner



Office Use Only	
Application No:	Fee: \$
Date Lodged: / /	Receipt No:
Date Allocated: / /	Ward:
Allocated to:	Zone(s):
	Overlay(s):

Application to Amend an Application for an Amended Planning Permit

Use this form to amend a planning permit application under section 50 or 57A of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987* where a decision has not yet been made by the Responsible Authority.

Privacy notice

All information collected as part of this permit application will be available for public inspection in accordance with Section 51 of the *Planning and Environment Act 1987*, unless you specifically request confidentiality. The information collected about you as part of the planning permit process will be made available at the council, should you wish to inspect it.

The land

1. Address of the land	Street No:	585	Street Name:	Wentworth Road.
	Lot No:	1+2	on Lodged Plan / Plan of Subdivision No. ✓	412216E
	Suburb/Locality:	Yelta.	Postcode:	3505

The Application Number

2.	005.2017.000000045.01.
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The proposed amendment

3. Provide details of the amendment being applied for.

b. What does the amendment propose? Describe the changes proposed including any changes to the plans or to any other documents included with the application.	<p>To amend Planning Permit dated 040517 to permit re-subdivision of 3 existing titles to 3 new lots/titles generally in accordance with plans submitted with the application and to permit the use and development of adwelling with on proposed lot 2.</p>
--	---

Supporting information (attachments – plans/drawings/reports)

4. List the documents you are attaching to support this amendment to application, including the title, plans, etc.

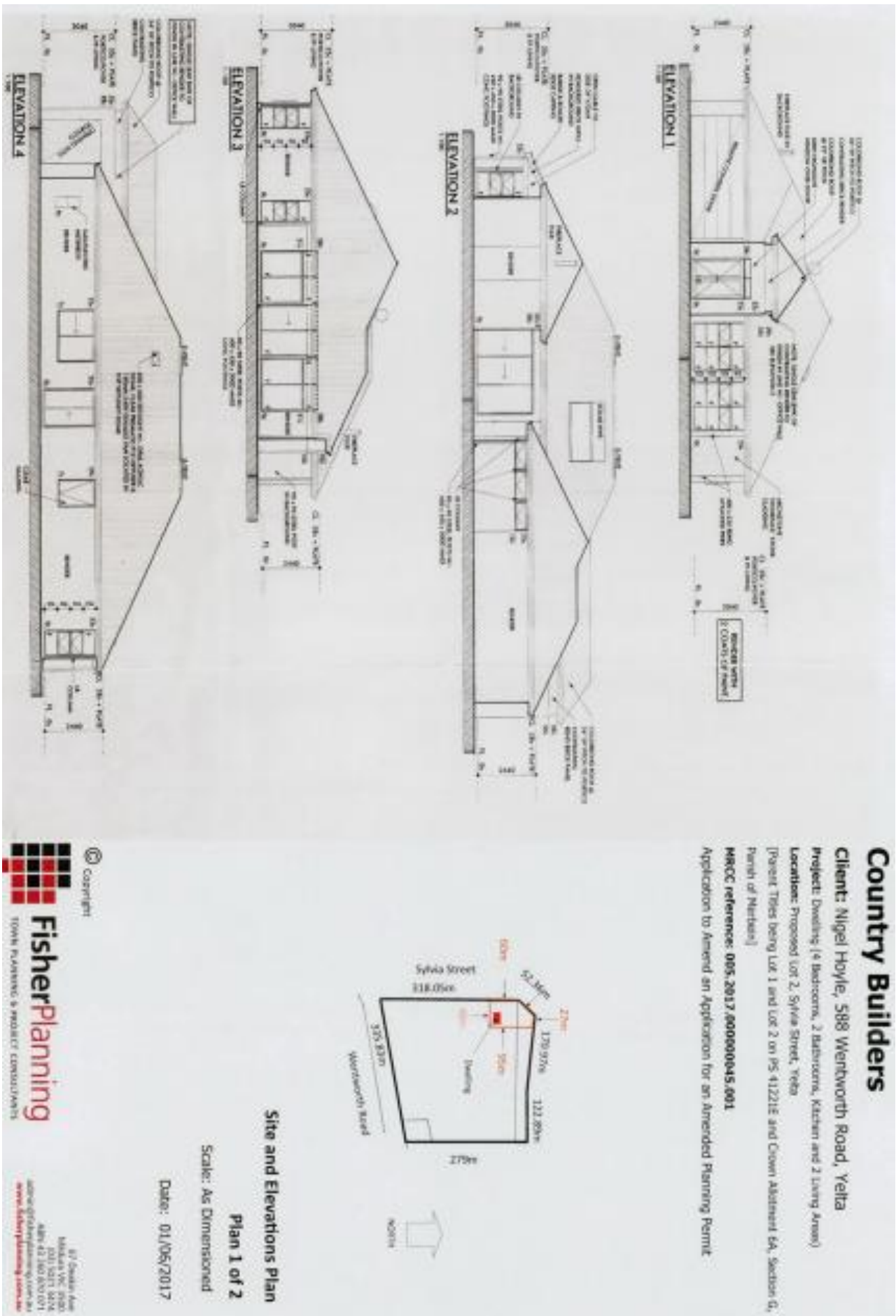
	Quantity	Document	Document date
a)		Refer to existing documents submitted,	/ /
b)		Plans of Ducting and associated	/ /
c)		works depicted on proposed	/ /
d)		box 2.	/ /
e)			/ /
f)			/ /
g)			/ /
h)			/ /

Declaration

<p>5. This form must be signed</p> <p>Remember it is against the law to provide false or misleading information, which could result in a heavy fine and cancellation of the permit.</p>	<p>I declare that all the information in this application is true and correct and the owner (if not myself) has been advised of the permit application.</p> <p>Name: <u>B. KARASZKEWYCH</u></p> <p>I am the: (tick all that apply)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Owner</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Applicant</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Contact</p> <p><input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agent for the applicant or owner (provide details in the Agent section below if you are not the contact)</p> <p>Signature: <u>[Signature]</u></p> <p>Date: <u>310517</u></p>
<p>Agent</p> <p>If you are an agent for the applicant or owner and not the contact as well, please provide your details.</p>	<p>Organisation (if applicable): <u>Fish & Pennington</u></p> <p>Postal address: <u>67 Deakin Ave Mildura</u></p> <p>Postcode: <u>3500</u></p>

Lodgement

<p>Lodge the completed and signed form and all documents with:</p>	<p>Council Name: Mildura Rural City Council</p> <p>Council Address: 108-116 Madden Avenue, Mildura</p> <p>Council Address: PO Box 105, Mildura, Victoria, 3502</p> <p>Council Address: DX 50014 MILDURA</p> <p>For help or more information</p> <p>Telephone: 03 5018 8410</p> <p>Fax: 03 5021 1899</p> <p>Email: ds@mildura.vic.gov.au</p>
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14.8 PETITION - REQUEST FOR SEALING OF ASH AVENUE

File Number: 15/02/01
Officer: General Manager Development

1. Summary

A petition requesting the sealing of a gravel section of Ash Avenue, to the south of Walnut Avenue, Koorlong, was noted by Council at its July meeting.

2. Recommendation

That Council:

- (i) leave the unsealed section of Ash Avenue to the south of Walnut Avenue, Koorlong, as a maintained gravel road, and
- (ii) advise the first named petitioner accordingly.

3. Background

A letter on behalf of residents of Ash Avenue, Koorlong was received from Mr Don Caia of Doojon Fresh Pty Ltd on 22 June 2017. The letter was signed by 9 other signatories highlighting maintenance issues and requesting this section of road be sealed.

4. Consultation Proposed/Undertaken

A letter acknowledging the receipt of the request was sent to Doojon Fresh Pty Ltd on 26 June 2017 by the Manager Corporate Administration. The maintenance issues were addressed in a letter dated 30 June 2017 by the Manager Works and Infrastructure Services to Doojon Fresh Pty Ltd outlining recently undertaken and some further planned maintenance works to the road surface, intersection and replacement of guide posts on Walnut Avenue. These works have now been completed and the road is currently well within road management plan intervention levels.

Traffic counts on this section of road were completed in late July, early August 2017.

5. Discussion

Factors taken into account when considering roads for sealing works in capital works programs include, although not limited to, annual maintenance costs, traffic volumes and types, connectivity requirements, bus route needs, current and future development impacts on these first two factors and the availability of capital works budgets to fund such works compared to the needs of maintaining and renewing the existing sealed road network, which is in excess of 1000km.

Given the significant capital works budget required to maintain and renew the existing sealed road network, unsealed roads being considered for sealing as per the aforementioned criteria typically have daily traffic volumes in excess of 500 vehicles per day.

The section of road requested for sealing is a no through road length of approximately 950m and during the 7 day period ending Friday 4 August 2017, both the 5 and 7 day average daily vehicle volumes were less than 100 per day. It would cost approximately \$100,000 to seal this section of road.

6. Time Frame

Maintenance of this unsealed section of Ash Avenue will continue to be in accordance with Council's Road Management Plan with any defects reported between scheduled inspections being responded to by Council's Works and Infrastructure Services maintenance team.

7. Strategic Plan Links

This report relates to the Community and Council Plan in the Key Result Areas:

2.4 Infrastructure, Assets and Facilities

Goal to be achieved:

- well-maintained road networks.

4.4 Financial Sustainability

Goal to be achieved:

- meet the community's needs in a financially responsible manner.

8. Asset Management Policy/Plan Alignment

There will be no additional operational costs as a result of this decision.

9. Implications

Policy

This report aligns with both the Asset Management Policy and the Road Management Plan.

Legal/Statutory

There are no legal/statutory impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

Financial

There are no financial impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

Environmental

There are no environmental impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

Social

There are no social impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

Economic

There are no economic impacts associated with the recommendation of this report.

10. Risk Assessment

By adopting the recommendation, Council will not be exposed to any significant risk.

11. Conflicts of Interest

No conflicts of interest were declared during the preparation of this report.

Attachments

There are no attachments for this report.

15 URGENT BUSINESS

16 OTHER MATTERS

17 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

CONFIDENTIAL BUSINESS

Pursuant to Section 89(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, Council will resolve to move into confidential business to deal with:

18 CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

18.1 SECTION 89(2)(A) - (PERSONNEL MATTERS)

- CEO PERFORMANCE REVIEW 2015/16

18.2 SECTION 89(2)(D) - (CONTRACTUAL MATTERS)

- TENDER AWARD - ROAD SIGNS AND ASSOCIATED PRODUCTS PANEL - CONTRACT 1617/38

18.3 SECTION 89(2)(D) - (CONTRACTUAL MATTERS)

- TENDER AWARD - SUPPLY OF TEMPORARY WORKERS AND TRAINEES - CONTRACT 1617/56

18.4 SECTION 89(2)(D) - (CONTRACTUAL MATTERS)

- TENDER AWARD - PROVISION OF LEGAL SERVICES CONTRACT 1617/50
-

19 CLOSURE