

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

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## **What happened at the Council Meeting in April?**

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A summary of issues considered at the Council meeting held on 4 March 2014 at the Council Office, Tallangatta is provided below:

**Healthy Communities Plan 2013-2017** – Council, in partnership with the Tallangatta Health Service, Upper Murray Health and Community Services and Walwa Bush Nursing Centre, has prepared a draft Healthy Communities Plan 2013 - 2017. The Healthy Communities Plan 2013 - 2017 contains:

- An assessment of the current state of health experienced by Towong Shire residents
- Projections of the future health needs of the local population
- Projects and initiatives that will assist our residents to enjoy the best health possible.

Council and the Health Services will work together to implement the initiatives included in the Plan, including support for volunteers, healthy eating activities and positive ageing programs. The Plan will also assist Council and the Health Services to advocate on behalf of our residents for improved services.

A full copy of the Plan will be on public display at Council's offices at Tallangatta and Corryong or on Council's website. Council invites your feedback on the Plan with submissions closing on Friday 2 May 2014. Ms Tricia Hazeleger, the Health Alliance's Manager Community Health and Wellbeing, can be contacted on 60715100 if you need any further information on the Plan.

**Street Lighting – LED Upgrade** – In 2013 Towong and Indigo Shire Councils submitted a joint application under the Community Energy and Efficiency Program to upgrade street lights in each Municipality. That application was unsuccessful and the plans for upgrading the street lights were put on hold. However, since that time increases in electricity charges have resulted in an even stronger business case to upgrade the lights.

SP Ausnet, Council's network provider, is now required to approve the type of lights used in street lighting. A total of 296 street lights have been identified as appropriate for an upgrade within the Shire. LED is currently at an advanced stage and the preferred option for replacement.

Council resolved to allocate up to \$195,000 in the 2014-2015 capital budget for street lighting upgrades. The upgrade of street lighting represents a significant energy efficiency and long term cost saving opportunity for Council of approximately \$31,000 per annum.

**Hume Region Preventing Violence against Women** – Over one in three Australian women have experienced sexual violence since the age of fifteen and the largest single risk factor for becoming a victim of sexual assault and/or domestic violence is, simply, being a female. The latest data from the Department of Health indicates that Towong Shire is below the State average and Hume Region average with 8.2 family incidents per 1000 residents with Australian evidence showing that the overwhelming majority of abuse and violence is perpetrated by men against women.

Council considered a report that detailed the Hume Region Preventing Violence against Women and Children, Regional Strategy 2013-2017. Council resolved to endorse the Strategy and indicated its willingness to participate in the local government working group. Council's Director Community and Corporate Services, Ms Jo Shannon will be Council's representative.

The above information is a summary only of the Council Meeting business. Copies of Council Minutes are available from Council's website [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au), Council Offices and all townships within the Shire (either the Post Office or local store). Should further information be required please contact Diana Snaith on 02 6071 5100.

The next ordinary Council Meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 6 May 2014 at Council's Corryong Office commencing at 10.00 am with Open Forum.

**Council Meetings are public meetings and all are welcome to attend.**