

MEDIA RELEASE

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What happened at the Council Meeting in June?

A summary of issues considered at the Council meeting held on 3 June 2014 at the Tallangatta Council Office 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, 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.

The draft Plan has been on public display at Council's offices at Tallangatta and Corryong and on Council's website. Feedback and submissions on the Plan were invited. As no comments or submissions were received Council resolved to adopt the 2013 – 2017 Healthy Communities Plan.

Draft Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy - The draft Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy has been developed to address a growing demand for track and trail infrastructure in the Hume Region. The demand for infrastructure is being driven primarily through the growth in cycle tourism, which has proven to be a lucrative market for the Hume region. In addition to the cycle tourism benefits, tracks and trails offer local residents a means of improving their health and wellbeing through increased activity and provide an alternative to traditional transport in some areas by providing a safe, off-road route for residents who wish to cycle-commute.

Stakeholders within the Hume region recognised the need to identify which tracks and trails in the region were of strategic significance and should therefore receive a higher priority for available funding into the future. The Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy project was funded by Federal, State and Local Government and this draft report represents a comprehensive strategy for the development of tracks and trails in the Hume region.

Once completed, the Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy will offer Councils across the Hume region an opportunity to leverage funding for significant tracks and trails as well as associated infrastructure such as car parking, amenity blocks and way-finding signage. Cycle tourism has already increased significantly in Towong Shire since the completion of the Sandy Creek Bridge project. (Funding support to enhance the High Country Rail Trail through Towong Shire could offer benefits to both the local community and to local businesses through a further increase in cycle tourism). Council gave in-principle endorsement to the Draft Hume Region Significant Tracks and Trails Strategy.

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, 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 1 July 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.