

## **MEDIA RELEASE**

File: 07/03/0007

Date of issue: 19 October 2015

Contact: Fionne Matthews 02 6071 5100

## **Change to Corryong office/library opening hours**

---

From November, Council's Corryong Office and Library will no longer open on Saturday mornings. Council's Mayor, Cr David Wortmann, explained that the decision was made following a review of visitation numbers, costs and workplace safety concerns.

"A recent survey showed that there were very few people visiting the office and library on Saturday mornings," said Cr Wortmann. "With the very low visitor numbers Council felt that the additional costs involved in keeping the office and library open on Saturday mornings was not justified, particularly in our current financial climate".

The decision to close the office/library on Saturday mornings is one of a number of cost-saving measures that Council has identified to prepare for the introduction of the Victorian Government's rate-capping policy.

"The State's rate-capping policy will limit our ability to generate enough income to maintain our existing services," explained Cr Wortmann. "We certainly support keeping rate increases to a minimum. Without additional external sources of income, we are reducing our costs wherever we can".

The survey of visitors to the Corryong office/library showed that those who did use the facilities on a Saturday morning reported that they were also able to access the service during normal weekday opening hours. Another concern which influenced Council's decision making was the relative isolation of employees rostered to work on Saturdays.

"We do appreciate the support that we have received from our residents as we continue to modify some of our services," said Cr Wortmann. "The quality of our services is important to us, as is the safety of our employees, and our focus is to deliver these things in a way that does not unnecessarily burden our ratepayers".

A report on the financial sustainability challenge currently being faced by Council, including the impact of the Commonwealth Government's freeze on Financial Assistance Grants and the upcoming introduction of a rate-capping policy across all Victorian Councils, has been included in its Annual Report 2014/15. The report is available online at [www.towong.vic.gov.au](http://www.towong.vic.gov.au) or at Council's offices in Corryong or Tallangatta.