

# **Agenda**

## **Ordinary Meeting of Council**

Corryong Council Office

Tuesday 5 September 2017

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**AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT TOWONG  
SHIRE COUNCIL, CORYONG OFFICE ON TUESDAY 5 SEPTEMBER 2017  
COMMENCING AT 10.30 AM.**

**Commonly used acronyms**

| <b>ABBREVIATION</b>     | <b>TITLE</b>  |
|-------------------------|---|
| Staff                   |   |
| CAE                     | Civil Asset Engineer  |
| CEO                     | Chief Executive Officer   |
| DCCS                    | Director Community and Corporate Services                         |
| DTS                     | Director Technical Services                                       |
| EA                      | Executive Assistant   |
| MCS                     | Manager Community Services  |
| MED                     | Manager Economic Development                                      |
| Government/Organisation |   |
| ACSUM                   | Alliance of Councils and Shires of the Upper Murray               |
| DEDJTR                  | Department of Economic Development, Jobs, Transport and Resources |
| DELWP                   | Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning               |
| GMW                     | Goulburn Murray Water   |
| HRGLN                   | Hume Region Local Government Network                              |
| MAV                     | Municipal Association of Victoria                                 |
| NECMA                   | North East Catchment Management Authority                         |
| NEW                     | North East Water  |
| NEWRRG                  | North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group                      |
| RCV                     | Rural Councils Victoria   |
| RDA                     | Regional Development Australia                                    |
| RDV                     | Regional Development Victoria                                     |
| THS                     | Tallangatta Health Service  |
| UMHCS                   | Upper Murray Health and Community Services                        |

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## **1 Opening Prayer**

"Almighty God, we ask that you be present at this meeting to assist us in our service to the Community through Local Government.

We pray that our decisions will be wise and taken with goodwill and clear conscience.

Amen."

## **2 Councillor and Officer presence at the meeting**

## **3 Apologies and granting of leave of absence**

## **4 Declaration of pecuniary interest and/or conflict**

For the purpose of this section, Councillors must disclose the nature of the conflict of interest in accordance with s79(2) of the Local Government Act.

## **5 Confirmation of minutes**

Ordinary Meeting of 1 August 2017 and Special Meeting of 15 August 2017.

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 1 AUGUST 2017 AND SPECIAL MEETING HELD ON 15 AUGUST 2017 AS CIRCULATED BE CONFIRMED.**

## **6 Petitions, joint letters and declarations**

## **7 Assembly of Councillors**

A written record of the Assemblies of Councillors from 19 July to 29 August 2017 is included at [Appendix 1](#).

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED.**

## **8 Open Forum**

## 9 Organisational improvement

### 9.1 Finance Report as at July 2017 (06/02/0021-DCCS)

#### Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Mr Blair Phillips, Manager Finance.

At the time of preparation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

#### OPERATING RESULT

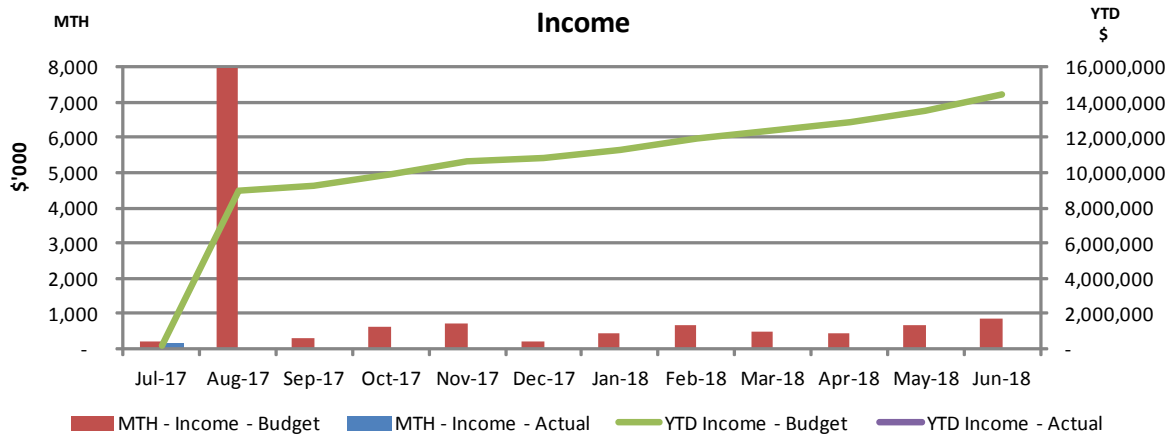
|                    | Note | Jul-17<br>(Actual)<br>\$'000 | Jul-17<br>(Budget)<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>(Actual)<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>(Budget)<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>(Variance)<br>\$'000 | YTD<br>(Variance)<br>% | 2017/18<br>Full Year<br>(Budget)<br>\$'000 | 2017/18<br>Full Year<br>(Achieved)<br>% |
|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Income             | 1    | 160                          | 193                          | 160                       | 193                       | (33)                        | (17%)                  | 14,394                                     | 1%                                      |
| Expenditure        | 2    | 644                          | 766                          | 644                       | 766                       | 122                         | 16%                    | 14,522                                     | 4%                                      |
| Surplus/ (Deficit) |      | (484)                        | (573)                        | (484)                     | (573)                     | 89                          | (16%)                  | (128)                                      | 378%                                    |

Table 1: Operating Result

#### Note 1:

Council's YTD income at 31 July 2017 is \$160,000 against a budget of \$193,000. The major items contributing to the \$33,000 unfavourable variance include:

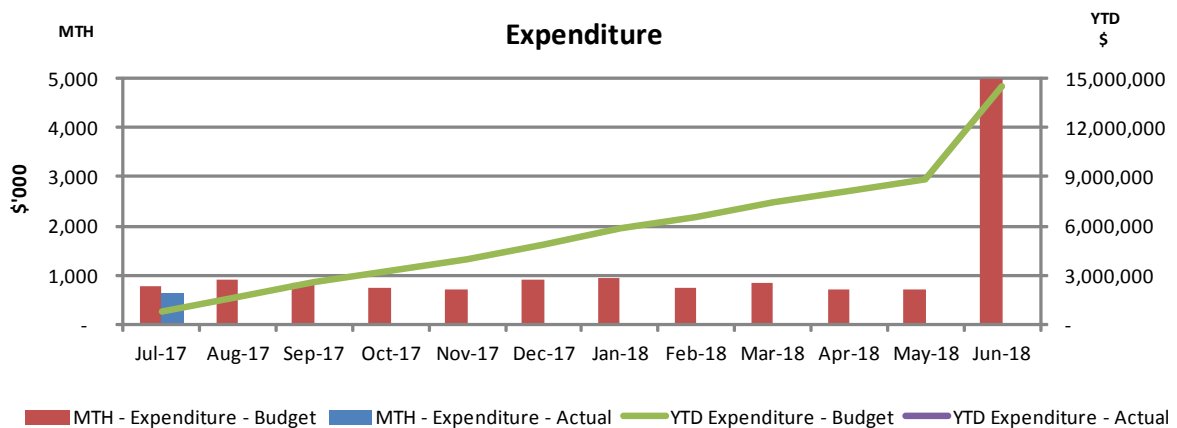
- Revenue received that was not budgeted in 2017/18:
  - \$30,000 in charges in lieu of rates that was back dated to the date of commissioning a new hydro-electric power station at Banimboola.
- Revenue that will be received later than anticipated:
  - \$67,000 of investment interest income that was accrued as earned for financial year ending 30 June 2017 will not be paid until maturity of the short-term term deposits.

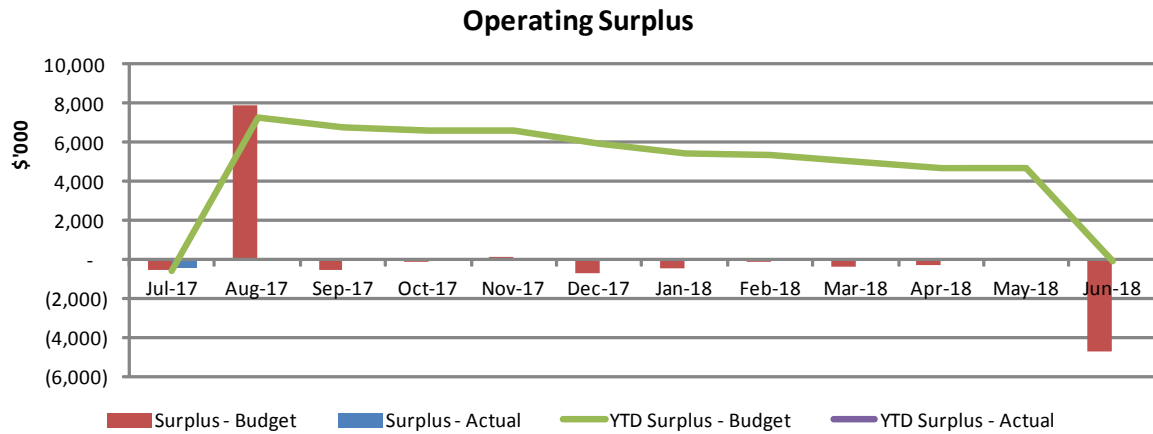


**Note 2:**

Council’s expenditure at 31 July 2017 is \$644,000 against a budget of \$766,000. The major items contributing to the \$122,000 favourable variance include:

- Expenses that will be incurred later than anticipated:
  - \$36,000 for invoices not yet received for services rendered in planning and building services.
  - \$32,000 for employee on-costs with an invoice for WorkCover not yet received.
  - \$28,000 for insurance on Council buildings.
  
- Expenses that were not budgeted for in 2017/18:
  - \$40,000 for works to repair infrastructure due to flood damage. This is expected to be reimbursed by the State Government once all works are complete (timing difference)
  
- YTD to 31 July 2017 Council is operating at 65.8 EFT staff against a budget of 71.6 EFT.





**Grant Income**

|               | Note | Jul-17     | YTD        | YTD       | YTD        | YTD        | 2017/18      | 2017/18    |
|---------------|------|------------|------------|-----------|------------|------------|--------------|------------|
|               |      | (Actual)   | (Actual)   | (Budget)  | (Variance) | (Variance) | (Budget)     | (Achieved) |
|               |      | \$'000     | \$'000     | \$'000    | \$'000     | %          | \$'000       | %          |
| Recurrent     | 1    | 97         | 97         | 84        | 13         | 15%        | 3,290        | 3%         |
| Non-Recurrent | 2    | 22         | 22         | 15        | 7          | 47%        | 1,223        | 2%         |
| <b>Total</b>  |      | <b>119</b> | <b>119</b> | <b>99</b> | <b>20</b>  | <b>20%</b> | <b>4,513</b> | <b>3%</b>  |

Table 2: Grant Income

**Note 1:**

Council's YTD recurrent grant income at 31 July 2017 is \$97,000 against a budget of \$84,000. The major items contributing to the \$13,000 favourable variance include:

- Revenue received that was not budgeted:
  - \$9,000 has been received above the budgeted amount for July including funds for the Occasional Care program
  - \$3,000 additional income has been received in grant funding under the Public Library Funding Program. Council budgeted for \$100,000 to be received from this program for 2017/18 and will actually receive \$106,000. Half of the current year funding has been received.

**Note 2:**

Council's YTD non-recurrent grant income at 31 July 2017 is \$22,000 against a budget of \$15,000. The major item contributing to the \$7,000 favourable variance is receiving \$6,000 in funding for the Freeza program earlier than anticipated.



Grants received Year-to-Date (YTD) are in the following table:

|                                   | \$'000     |
|-----------------------------------|------------|
| Recurrent Grants                  |            |
| Library                           | 53         |
| Maternal and Child Health         | 13         |
| Corryong Pre School               | 10         |
| Tallangatta Pre School            | 9          |
| Berringa Pre School               | 6          |
| Community Access                  | 3          |
| Pre-School Cluster                | 3          |
| <b>Total Recurrent Grants</b>     | <b>97</b>  |
| Non-Recurrent Grants              |            |
| Tallangatta Neighbourhood House   | 15         |
| Freeza Funding                    | 6          |
| Community Health and Wellbeing    | 1          |
| <b>Total Non-Recurrent Grants</b> | <b>22</b>  |
| <b>Total Grants Received</b>      | <b>119</b> |

Table 3: Grant Income received

**Unexpended Grants and Restricted Funds**

Where Council has received grants that are required to be expended in a specified manner, but the funds have not yet been expended, the grant is recognised as an unexpended grant or restricted funds. This identifies cash holdings that are required to be spent on a specified purpose and are not available for other Council priorities.

The following table provides a listing of current unexpended grants:

|  | \$'000       |
|--|--------------|
| Unexpended Grants                          |              |
| Roads to Recovery (R2R)                    | 302          |
| Corryong Swimming Pool Upgrade Grant       | 178          |
| Improved Connections Hanson Street project | 135          |
| Community Access                           | 111          |
| Country Roads and Bridges                  | 105          |
| Mitta North Rd Intersection Improvement    | 85           |
| Omeo Hwy Pedestrian Path Eskdale           | 80           |
| Walwa Streetscape                          | 80           |
| Tallangatta Neighbourhood House            | 52           |
| Flood Recovery Officer                     | 40           |
| Library                                    | 40           |
| Local Gov Business Collaboration           | 32           |
| L2P Program                                | 24           |
| Freeza Funding                             | 21           |
| Bushfire Management Overlay                | 13           |
| Kinder Enrolment                           | 12           |
| The Narrows Project                        | 10           |
| Children Services Review                   | 10           |
| Improving Liveability of Older People      | 10           |
| Beat the Heat - Tree Project               | 8            |
| Weed Project                               | 6            |
| Maternal and Child Health Enhancement      | 5            |
| Health Promotions (Walk to School)         | 5            |
| <b>Total Unexpended Grants</b>             | <b>1,364</b> |

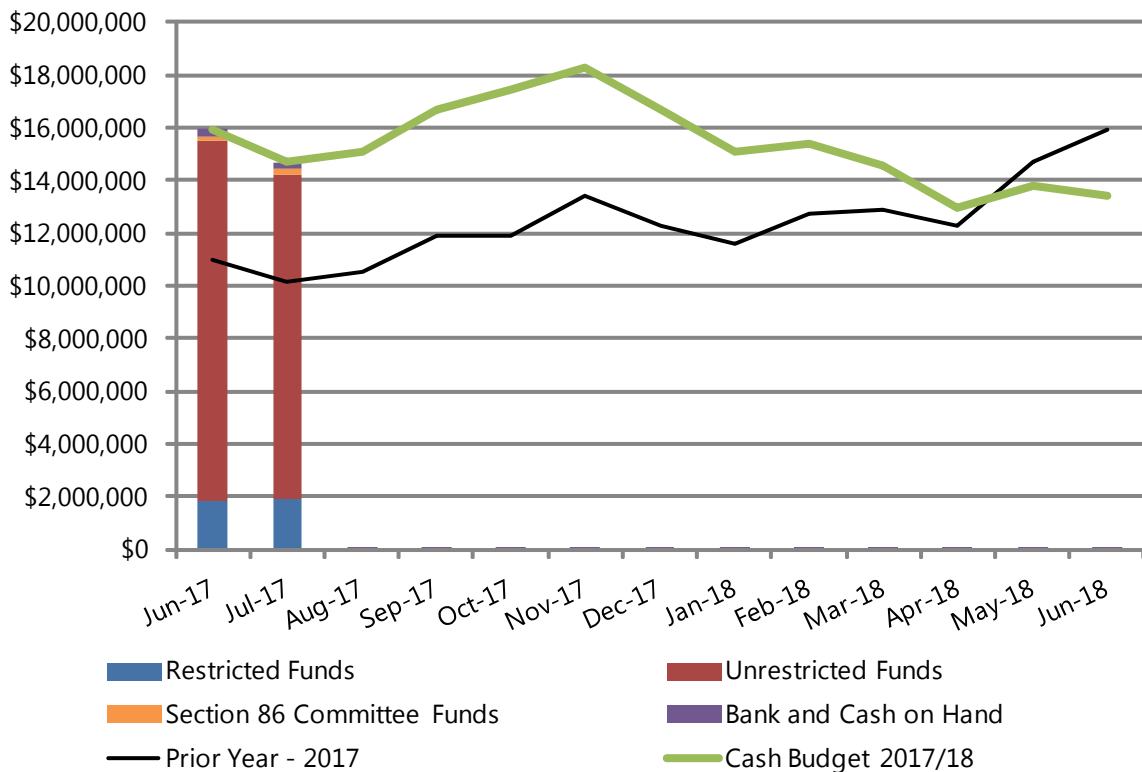
Table 4: Unexpended Grants

**CASH POSITION**

**Cash on Hand**

The cash position moved during the month as detailed below:

|                                     | Current Month     | Prior Month       | Variance           |               |
|-------------------------------------|-------------------|-------------------|--------------------|---------------|
|                                     | Jul-17            | Jun-17            | \$                 | %             |
|                                     | \$                | \$                | \$                 | %             |
| Unexpended Grants                   | 1,364,890         | 1,301,087         | 63,803             | 4.9%          |
| Other Provisions and Reserves       | 525,102           | 541,802           | (16,700)           | (3.1%)        |
| Restricted Funds                    | 1,889,992         | 1,842,889         | 47,103             | 2.6%          |
| Provision for Employee Entitlements | 1,200,307         | 1,064,669         | 135,638            | 12.7%         |
| Other Unrestricted Funds            | 11,164,607        | 12,593,824        | (1,429,217)        | (11.3%)       |
| Total Unrestricted Funds            | 12,364,914        | 13,658,493        | (1,293,579)        | (9.5%)        |
| Section 86 Committee Funds          | 196,445           | 190,555           | 5,891              | 3.1%          |
| Total Investments                   | 14,451,351        | 15,691,937        | (1,240,586)        | (7.9%)        |
| Bank and Cash on Hand               | 259,350           | 259,350           | -                  | 0.0%          |
| <b>Total Cash</b>                   | <b>14,710,701</b> | <b>15,951,286</b> | <b>(1,240,586)</b> | <b>(7.8%)</b> |
| Average Interest Rate               | 2.46%             | 2.39%             |                    |               |



**Investments**

Investments were made up of the following at the month end:

| Date                     | Product         | Institution        | Principal         | Yield | Term     | Rating | Maturity   |
|--------------------------|-----------------|--------------------|-------------------|-------|----------|--------|------------|
| 20/06/2017               | Term Deposit    | Bank of Queensland | 1,000,000         | 2.05% | 61 Days  | A2     | 21/08/2017 |
| 21/06/2017               | Term Deposit    | Bendigo Bank       | 1,500,000         | 2.70% | 279 Days | A2     | 20/03/2018 |
| 17/03/2017               | Term Deposit    | AMP                | 1,000,000         | 2.75% | 180 Days | A1     | 13/09/2017 |
| 14/03/2017               | Term Deposit    | Bendigo Bank       | 1,000,000         | 2.55% | 184 Days | A2     | 14/09/2017 |
| 3/05/2017                | Term Deposit    | Bank of Queensland | 1,500,000         | 2.65% | 184 Days | A2     | 3/11/2017  |
| 8/02/2017                | Term Deposit    | ME Bank            | 1,000,000         | 2.70% | 273 Days | A2     | 8/11/2017  |
| 18/05/2017               | Term Deposit    | Bank of Queensland | 1,500,000         | 2.80% | 186 Days | A2     | 20/11/2017 |
| 9/03/2017                | Term Deposit    | Bendigo Bank       | 1,000,000         | 2.65% | 214 Days | A2     | 9/10/2017  |
| 5/04/2017                | Term Deposit    | AMP                | 1,000,000         | 2.75% | 188 Days | A1     | 10/10/2017 |
| 14/06/2017               | Term Deposit    | ME Bank            | 1,000,000         | 2.65% | 182 Days | BB     | 13/12/2017 |
| 11/01/2017               | Term Deposit    | WAW                | 863,327           | 2.60% | 368 Days |        | 11/02/2018 |
| N/A                      | Cash Management | Westpac            | 1,891,579         | 1.55% | On Call  | AA-    | N/A        |
| N/A                      | S86 Committees  | Various            | 196,445           | 4.68% | N/A      |        | N/A        |
| <b>Total Investments</b> |                 |                    | <b>14,451,351</b> |       |          |        |            |

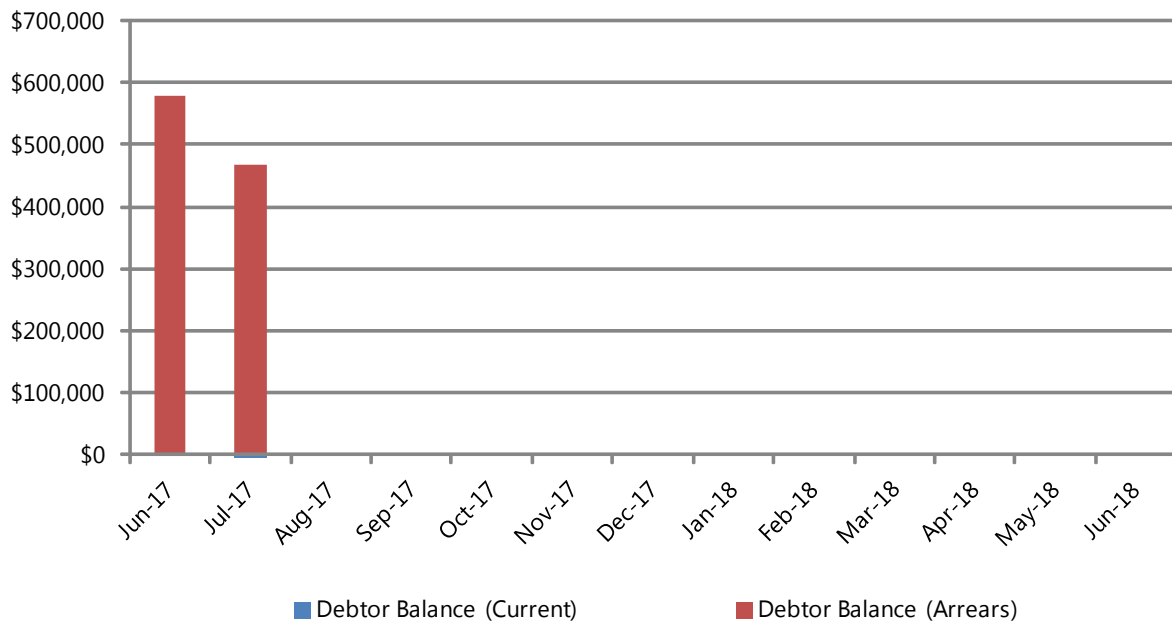
Table 5: Investments at month end

**RECEIVABLES**

***Rates, Municipal Charge, Waste Management Charge and Waste Collection Charge***

The breakdown of rates received for the current month and year-to-date is shown in the following table and graph:

| <b>Rates, charges and FSPL Debtors</b> |               |                 |                    |                 |                  |                    |
|--|---------------|-----------------|--------------------|-----------------|------------------|--------------------|
|  | <b>Amount</b> | <b>Received</b> | <b>% Collected</b> | <b>Received</b> | <b>Collected</b> | <b>Balance</b>     |
|  | <b>\$</b>     | <b>Jul-17</b>   | <b>Jul-17</b>      | <b>YTD</b>      | <b>YTD</b>       | <b>Outstanding</b> |
|  | <b>\$</b>     | <b>\$</b>       | <b>%</b>           | <b>\$</b>       | <b>\$</b>        | <b>\$</b>          |
| Levied 2017/18                         | -             | 31,079          | 0.0%               | 31,079          | 0.0%             | (31,079)           |
| Arrears prior to 2017/18               | 577,651       | 111,189         | 19.2%              | 111,189         | 19.2%            | 466,462            |
| <b>Total Charges</b>                   |               | <b>142,268</b>  |                    | <b>142,268</b>  |                  | <b>435,383</b>     |

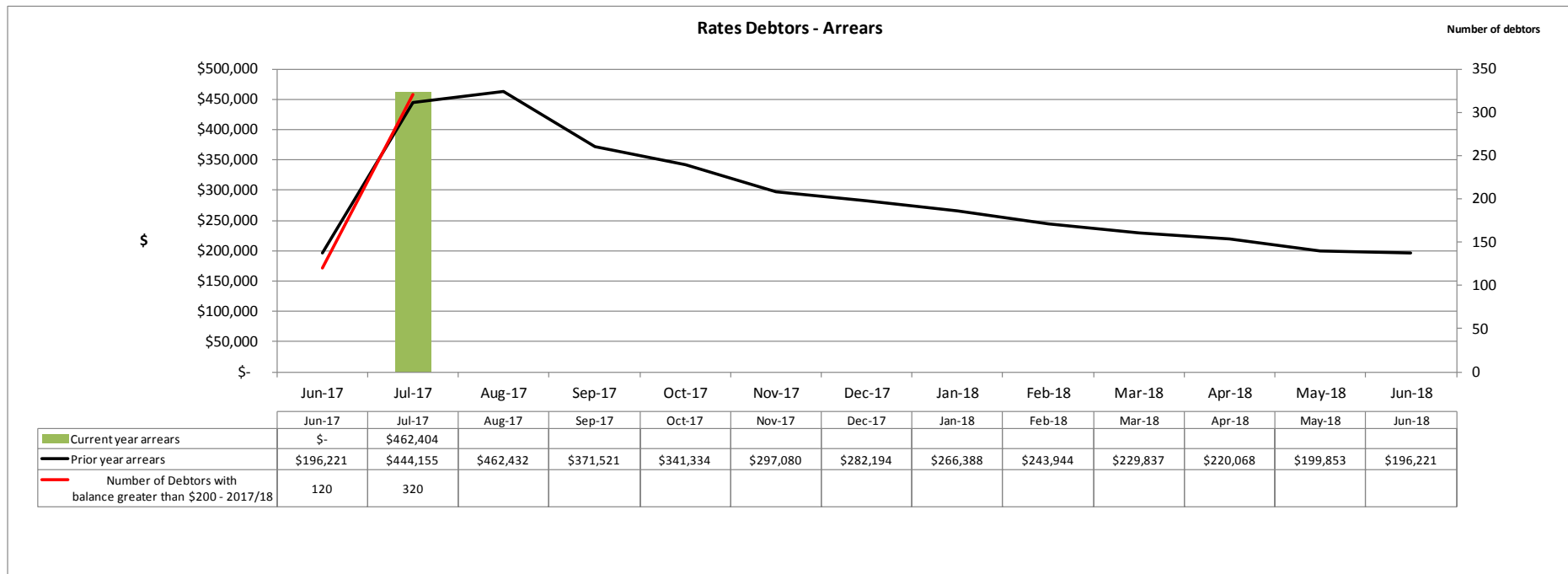


Rates and charges for 2017/18 will be levied in August 2017. There are some payments that have been received in advance for the current year's rates due to payment arrangements that are in place. These payments may be reflected as negative balances in the debtors report until the rates are levied in August.

Quarterly instalments are due at the end of September, November, February and May.

**Debt Collection**

The graph below compares the arrears balances as at the end of each month for the current financial year (2017/18) and the arrears balances at the equivalent time in the prior financial year (2016/17). The number of debtors with a balance greater than \$200 relates to the 2017/18 financial year.

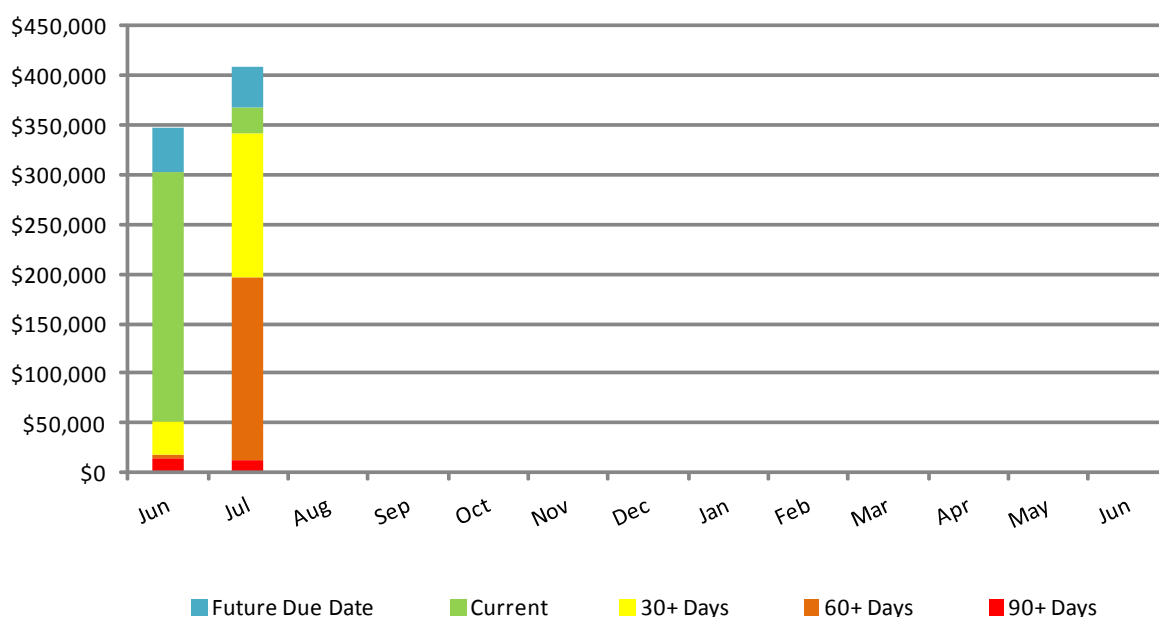


At 31 July 2017 there were 320 rates debtors with an outstanding balance of greater than \$200. This is an increase of 200 debtors since 30 June 2017. This increase is due to rates debtors that have outstanding 2016/17 rates now being included in this report.

**Sundry Debtors**

The Sundry Debtors outstanding at month end and the movement from the prior month is shown below:

| Sundry Debtors   | Future Due Date | Current   | 30 Days | 60 Days | 90+ Days | Total   |
|------------------|-----------------|-----------|---------|---------|----------|---------|
|                  | \$              | \$        | \$      | \$      | \$       | \$      |
| <b>July 2017</b> | 41,508          | 26,268    | 143,460 | 184,044 | 13,406   | 408,686 |
| <b>June 2017</b> | 44,258          | 251,185   | 33,213  | 4,165   | 14,021   | 346,843 |
| <b>Movement</b>  | (2,750)         | (224,917) | 110,247 | 179,879 | (615)    | 61,843  |



Significant debtors (>\$1,000) with ageing of greater than 90 days are as follows:

| Debtor       | Amount  | Description                        | RO | Notes   |
|--------------|---------|------------------------------------|----|---|
| Debtor 17007 | \$1,540 | Cost recovery for slashing         | BP | Contact has been made with the debtor and is expected to be recovered.                |
| Debtor 18925 | \$3,250 | Community contribution             | BP | The debtor has requested a meeting with the CEO and a meeting has now been scheduled. |
| Debtor 19755 | \$1,548 | 50% Cost Recovery for weed control | BP | Contact has been made with the debtor and is expected to be recovered.                |
| Debtor 20210 | \$1,100 | Fees                               | BP | Contact has been made with the debtor and is expected to be recovered.                |

Table 6: Significant debtors > 90 days

## LOCAL ROADS

The following tables report on progress of Local Roads and Bridges Capital and Maintenance programs.

### *Local Roads and Bridges Capital Works*

| <b>Local Roads and Bridges Infrastructure - Capital</b> | <b>Note</b> | <b>YTD Actual</b> | <b>YTD Budget</b> | <b>Variance</b> | <b>Annual Budget</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|   |             | \$                | \$                | \$              | \$                   |
| 410 Road Construction                                   | 1           | 46,996            | -                 | (46,996)        | 1,290,642            |
| 411 Pavement Reconstruction                             |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 100,000              |
| 416 Sealing   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | -                    |
| 417 Resealing   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 550,000              |
| 420 Drainage Construction                               |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 30,000               |
| 421 Digouts   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 650,000              |
| 422 Resheeting  |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 180,000              |
| 432 Footpaths   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 145,000              |
| 433 Kerb and Channel                                    |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 585,000              |
| 442 Guardrails  |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 30,000               |
| 450 Bridge Construction                                 |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 100,000              |
| <b>Total</b>  |             | <b>46,996</b>     | <b>-</b>          | <b>(46,996)</b> | <b>3,660,642</b>     |

Table 7: Local Roads & Bridges – Capital Works (YTD)

#### Note 1:

Invoices for works on Towong Street as part of the Destination Tallangatta project were received earlier than anticipated (timing variance).

### *Local Roads and Bridges Maintenance*

The table below shows maintenance of local roads and bridges. Flood damage works are reported in Table 9 later in this report.

| <b>Local Roads and Bridges Infrastructure - Maintenance</b> | <b>Note</b> | <b>YTD Actual</b> | <b>YTD Budget</b> | <b>Variance</b> | <b>Annual Budget</b> |
|---|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
|   |             | \$                | \$                | \$              | \$                   |
| 302 Survey and Design                                       |             | -                 | 500               | 500             | 65,000               |
| 304 Pavement Maintenance                                    |             | 7,245             | 7,500             | 255             | 148,000              |
| 306 Grading   |             | 7,017             | 5,000             | (2,017)         | 452,000              |
| 308 Shoulder Maintenance                                    |             | 136               | 1,000             | 864             | 98,000               |
| 310 Drainage Maintenance                                    |             | 11,988            | 7,500             | (4,488)         | 167,000              |
| 312 Call Outs   |             | -                 | 1,000             | 1,000           | 20,000               |
| 324 General Roadside Maintenance                            |             | 3,599             | 9,000             | 5,401           | 73,000               |
| 328 Tree Maintenance  |             | 4,826             | 7,000             | 2,174           | 122,000              |
| 330 Footpath Maintenance                                    |             | -                 | 500               | 500             | 8,000                |
| 331 Kerb and Channel Maintenance                            |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 5,000                |
| 334 Roadside Treatments                                     |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 15,000               |
| 336 Signs Maintenance                                       |             | 2,339             | 1,000             | (1,339)         | 12,000               |
| 338 Linemarking   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 10,000               |
| 340 Guideposts  |             | 682               | 500               | (182)           | 7,000                |
| 342 Guardrail   |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 5,000                |
| 346 Fire Access Tracks                                      |             | -                 | -                 | -               | 5,000                |
| 346 Bridge Maintenance                                      |             | 5,232             | -                 | (5,232)         | 30,000               |
| <b>Total</b>  |             | <b>43,064</b>     | <b>40,500</b>     | <b>(2,564)</b>  | <b>1,242,000</b>     |

Table 8: Local Roads & Bridges - Maintenance (YTD)



The Local Roads and Bridges maintenance program is budgeted based on the type of work proposed to be undertaken, such as grading, drainage maintenance, pavement maintenance, bridge maintenance, etc. When the maintenance program is actually implemented, the most recent asset inspection data available is used to inform or alter the maintenance program to accommodate the maintenance needs with the greatest priority. This enables the impact of ongoing weather conditions and/or recent significant weather events to be factored into the program. Whilst the type of work proposed may alter from that originally proposed, the total maintenance program is kept within the total annual budget (\$1.24 million for 2017/18).

***Flood repairs and maintenance***

|                        | Note | YTD Actual<br>\$ | YTD Budget<br>\$ | Variance<br>\$  | Annual Budget<br>\$ |
|------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 313 Storm/Flood Damage |      | 41,986           | -                | (41,986)        | -                   |
| <b>Total</b>           |      | <b>41,986</b>    | <b>-</b>         | <b>(41,986)</b> | <b>-</b>            |

Table 9: Local Roads and Bridges – Flood damage works

Flood damage works are expected to be reimbursed through the State Government’s Natural Disaster Financial Assistance (NDFFA) program.

**OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS**

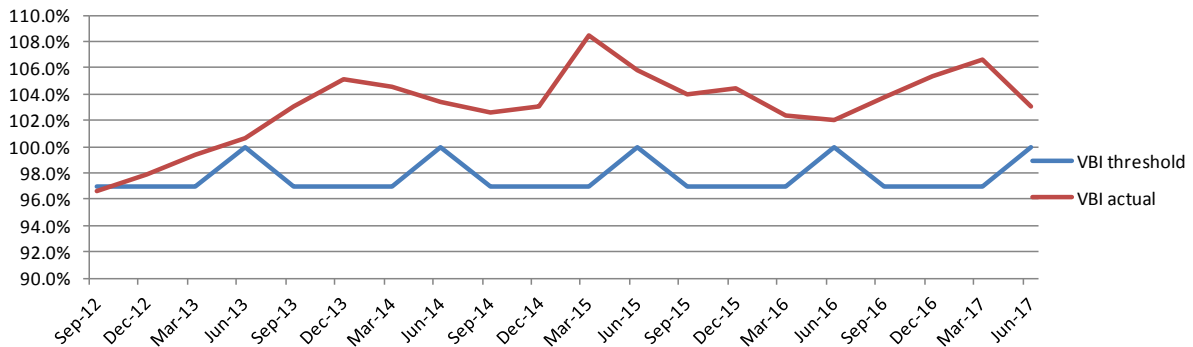
***Defined benefit superannuation***

Council has obligations under a defined benefit superannuation scheme that may result in the need to make additional contributions to the scheme to ensure that the liabilities of the fund are covered by the assets of the fund. There are nine current employees covered by this superannuation fund. In addition there is a liability for former employees.

In summary, the Vested Benefits Index (VBI) is the measure required to be used to determine whether there is an unfunded liability.

A VBI must generally be kept above a fund’s nominated shortfall threshold. The estimated VBI released by Vision Super for June 2017 is 103.1%. The graph following shows Vision Super’s VBI performance against the fund’s nominated VBI threshold.

### Defined Benefit Superannuation - Vested Benefit Index (VBI)



If the actual VBI falls below the above VBI thresholds, a funding call will be initiated which will mean Council will have to provide additional funding to the Defined Benefit fund to ensure that the liabilities of the fund can be met.

The triennial actuarial investigation as at 30 June 2017 is currently in progress. As a result, the VBI threshold is 100% until the investigation is completed. At this stage, Vision Super anticipates that the investigation will be completed in December 2017.

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE FINANCE REPORT BE NOTED.**

### **9.2 Occupational Health and Safety Report (06/04/0212-DCCS)**

The Occupational Health and Safety report is presented every second month. The next report is due in October 2017.

The bi-monthly Council Plan Priorities report is included in this agenda at Item 9.4.

### **9.3 Action Sheet Reports (06/05/0010-EA)**

Items requiring action from the 1 August 2017 Council Meeting are attached at [Appendix 2](#).

#### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.**

## 9.4 Council Plan Priorities (07/05/0022-DCCS)

The bi-monthly updates on the 2017-2021 Council Plan priorities are attached at [Appendix 3](#) for information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.**

## 9.5 Performance Reporting Graphs (DCCS)

The Performance Reporting Graphs are attached at [Appendix 4](#) for information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.**

## 9.6 Council Plan 2017-2021 (07/05/0029-CEO)

**Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):**

This report was prepared by Ms Juliana Phelps, Chief Executive Officer.

At the time of preparation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

**Background/History:**

The 2017-2021 Council Plan was adopted at the 1 August Council meeting.

The Plan (at item 3.5) includes the following Strategic Priority:

Deliver the Destination Tallangatta project: foreshore upgrade, path links, playground, road improvements, retail precinct upgrade.

Whilst the Destination Tallangatta project includes works at the Tallangatta Holiday (Caravan) Park, Council's aspirations for the park would be better represented by the inclusion of a specific Strategic Priority, for example:

Secure control of the Tallangatta Caravan Park and seek funding to implement the adopted recommendations from the Tallangatta Holiday Park Planning Study.

**Impact on Council Policy:**

Nil

**State Government Policy Impacts:**

Nil

**Budget Impact:**

A report detailing any budget impact of implementing the Strategic Priority will be provided to Council at a future date when further information is available.

**Risk Assessment:**

Nil

**Community Consultation/Responses:**

The Tallangatta community's support for improving the caravan park has been made known to Councillors and staff over many year. This support was reinforced at the Tallangatta Council Plan community consultation session held early in 2017.

**Discussion/Officers View:**

The omission of a specific Strategic Priority in the Council Plan was an oversight and it is recommended that the Council Plan 2017-2021 be amended to include a specific Strategic Priority in relation to the Tallangatta Caravan Park.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE 2017-2021 COUNCIL PLAN BE AMENDED TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING STRATEGY PRIORITY:**

**SECURE CONTROL OF THE TALLANGATTA CARAVAN PARK AND SEEK FUNDING TO IMPLEMENT THE ADOPTED RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE TALLANGATTA HOLIDAY PARK PLANNING STUDY.**

## 9.7 High Country Rail Trail (05/02/0154-CEO)

### **Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):**

This report was prepared by Ms Juliana Phelps, Chief Executive Officer.

At the time of preparation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

### **Background/History:**

Correspondence has been received from Parklands Albury Wodonga requesting Council's assistance in advocating for Parklands Albury Wodonga Ltd to be appointed a DELWP Committee of Management for the following sections of the rail trail:

1. Old Tallangatta to Boggy Creek, Koetong (this section is Parklands highest priority as it is nearing completion)
2. Cudgewa township to Lucyvale boundary with Hancock Plantations lease (this will be Parklands' focus over the next few years).

Parklands have advised that they will continue to progress what have been positive negotiations with Hancock Plantations to secure access through the Crown land which is leased to Hancocks between Shelley and Lucyvale.

### **Impact on Council Policy:**

Nil

### **State Government Policy Impacts:**

Nil

### **Budget Impact:**

Nil

### **Risk Assessment:**

Nil

**Community Consultation/Responses:**

No community consultation has been undertaken.

**Discussion/Officers View:**

In past years there has been much debate in the chamber in relation to the management and development of the High Country Rail Trail. Councillors have previously been provided with Council Meeting Minutes where the matter was debated.

As noted above, there has been no community consultation by Council in relation to Parklands Albury Wodonga being appointed Committee of Management for the sections of trail mentioned above.

Given Council's limited resources we are not in a position to be the Committee of Management for the sections of rail trail identified above.

Parklands Albury Wodonga have significant experience in the development and management of the rail trail in other locations and it would seem appropriate to advocate for Parklands Albury Wodonga to be appointed Committee of Management in order to formalise the management responsibility and further develop the trail.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL PROVIDE DIRECTION IN RELATION TO THE REQUEST FROM PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA.**

**THAT COUNCIL SUPPORT PARKLANDS ALBURY WODONGA REQUEST TO BE APPOINTED AS A DELWP COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT FOR THE FOLLOWING SECTIONS OF RAIL TRAIL:**

- 1. OLD TALLANGATTA TO BOGGY CREEK**
- 2. CUDGEWA TOWNSHIP TO LUCYVALE BOUNDARY WITH HANCOCK PLANTATIONS LEASE**

## **10 Community wellbeing**

The Community Wellbeing report is presented every second month. The next report is due in October 2017.

The bi-monthly Council Plan Priorities report is included in this agenda at Item 9.4.

## **11 Asset management**

The Asset Management report is presented every second month. The next report is due in October 2017.

The bi-monthly Council Plan Priorities report is included in this agenda at Item 9.4.

## **12 Land-use planning**

No Planning reports.

## **13 Environmental sustainability**

The Environmental Sustainability report is presented every second month. The next report is due in October 2017.

The bi-monthly Council Plan Priorities report is included in this agenda at Item 9.4.

### **13.1 Beating the Heat - Climate Change Resilient Trees Species List (01/04/0107-DTS)**

#### **Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):**

This report was prepared by Ms Rachael Gadd, Civil Asset Engineer.

At the time of preparation of the report the officer did not have a direct or indirect interest in any matter to which the report or advice relates.

#### **Background/History:**

In 2015 Council adopted the Tree Management Plan which set a goal to achieve forty percent street tree canopy coverage in urban streets within the Shire. The plan recognises that trees can improve amenity in urban areas, improve the pedestrian

experience in heat-waves and provide shading for on-street parking. These improvements can also contribute to local economies through an improved visitor experience. Furthermore, consistent canopy coverage in urban streets will assist in resilience to climate change.

Funding was obtained through the Department of Environment, Land, Water and Planning's Victorian Climate Change Grants 2015 through the Beating the Heat – Cooling canopies for urban resilience project. This project involved the researching and development of a climate change resilient species list to ensure the longevity of Council's future street and park tree plantings. To satisfy the requirements of the funding the completed list requires council endorsement.

**Impact on Council Policy:**

This Climate Change resilient tree species list is a supporting document to Council's Tree Management Policy and Tree Replacement Strategy.

**State Government Policy Impacts:**

Nil.

**Budget Impact:**

Nil.

**Risk Assessment:**

Nil.

**Community Consultation/Responses:**

Nil.

**Discussion/Officers View:**

Aligning Council's tree planting to this list will reduce impact of the natural environment on infrastructure such as drainage, roads and footpaths and ensure the future quality of trees within the Shire's urban environments. The species on this list have been rated against a number of criteria that address both climate change resilience and street/park tree suitability.

Descriptions of each criteria are detailed in the species list documents ([Appendix 5](#)) and include infrastructure impact potential, maintenance requirements, longevity and



tolerance to climate change induced events such as drought, heat wave, wind, water logging and pollution.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT COUNCIL ENDORSE THE BEATING THE HEAT - CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENT TREES SPECIES LIST.**

## **14 Economic and tourism development**

The Economic and Tourism Development report is presented every second month. The next report is due in October 2017.

The bi-monthly Council Plan Priorities report is included in this agenda at Item 9.4.

## **15 Councillor reports**

### **15.1 Corryong Red Cross Branch AGM (07/05/0007-Cr Wortmann)**

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|--|---|
| <b>Date of Meeting/Event:</b>                          | 4 August 2017   |
| <b>Location of Meeting/Event:</b>                      | CFA Rooms Corryong  |
| <b>Key information presented/discussed at meeting:</b> | <p>I was invited to chair the election of office bearers of the Corryong Red Cross Branch</p> <p>I must compliment all the members of the Branch as it was one of the best organised AGMs I have ever had the pleasure of chairing.</p> <p>Lauren Elvin Manager of Economic Development was the guest speaker at the meeting.</p> <p>Lauren gave a detailed account of the Corryong Airport Project.</p> <p>The project will provide enormous benefits to Corryong and the Upper Murray District.</p> <p>DELWP plans to have their fire suppression aircraft operational from the airport this fire season.</p> |

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|                                   | <p>The lighting at the airport will allow aircraft to land at night which is very beneficial in the event of emergency situations.</p> <p>The airport project will provide economic opportunities for the area.</p> |
| <b>Members Comments Thoughts:</b> | The meeting was well attended and I found it very informative to me.  |
| <b>Possible Actions:</b>          | Nil.  |
| <b>Additional Info Available:</b> | Nil.  |

## 15.2 Essential Services Commission (07/05/0007-Cr Wortmann)

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| <b>Date of Meeting/Event:</b>                          | 10 August 2017   |
| <b>Location of Meeting/Event:</b>                      | Melbourne  |
| <b>Key information presented/discussed at meeting:</b> | <p>The CEO Juliana Phelps, Director of Community and Corporate Services Jo Shannon, Mayor David Wortmann and Deputy Mayor Aaron Scales met with representatives from the ESC.</p> <p>The purpose of the meeting was to expand on the process and reasoning behind the ESCs decision to allow Towong Shire Council's application to raise rates by a higher percentage than the cap set by the Minister for Local Government. The ESC commented on the following:</p> <p>Towong Shire Councils successful application demonstrates good long-term financial planning. This, in turn, means that the council:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- identified its major financial challenges and, based on the best information available,</li> <li>considered them in its long-term financial plan</li> <li>-showed that it consistently took action to manage its financial challenges — particularly</li> </ul> |

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|  | <p>those within its control to improve its revenues and reduce costs</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>-established good policies, plans, processes and practices to give us confidence that it identified and quantified its financial needs</li><li>-reasonably engaged effectively over time, improving its community's understanding of its major financial needs, including:<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• any major trade-offs (involving services, infrastructure or finances)</li><li>• the reasons why these needs should be funded by a higher cap</li><li>• the consequential impacts if the higher cap is not approved.</li></ul></li></ul> <p>We note the Victorian Auditor General's view of the financial sustainability of small rural councils, and recognise that many of them face major financial challenges. The Commission understands some of these major financial challenges, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- heavy dependence on grant revenue limited capacity to generate revenue from other sources</li><li>significant road infrastructure network to maintain, relative to their size and capacity</li><li>small rate base (and any additional cost of applying for a variation may prove to be prohibitive).</li></ul> <p>-It is reasonable for us to require a higher standard of documentation for multi-year higher cap applications. As a minimum, councils like Towong should and successfully did:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• outline the key operating and financial assumptions underpinning the long-term financial plan</li><li>identify and model viable alternative budget scenarios.</li></ul> <p>Over a longer period (say, for a four year higher cap) there is greater scope for longer term trade-offs that are often not possible in the short term. These trade-offs can include different service, infrastructure and financial options that may be available to a council and its community.</p> |
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|  | <p>In these cases, we expect a council to explore trade-offs in more detail and model their financial and service impacts in a longer term plan. This process will also involve engaging effectively with its ratepayers and community.</p> <p>As required under the Fair Go Rates system, we examined each of the six legislative matters addressed in Towong’s application.</p> <p>Our assessment takes into account the statutory objectives and legislative matters that applications must address. This approach ensures that the assessment includes all relevant factors covered by the legislation that impact on whether the application demonstrates a long-term financial need that should be funded through a higher cap.</p> <p>To assist in our assessment we sought external advice from Deloitte Access Economics (Deloitte), KJA and Mosaic Lab. The advice covers technical areas of financial capacity and community engagement.</p> |
| <p><b>Members Comments Thoughts:</b></p> | <p>The meeting with the ESC was very informative and very worthwhile. It was clear and extremely pleasing that four independent organisations had studied our application and all concluded that it demonstrated a long term financial need that is consistent with the long term interests of the Council's ratepayers and communities and enables sustainable outcomes in service delivery and critical infrastructure maintenance and renewal.</p> <p>The conclusions of the independent organisations also reinforces our consistent position that more financial support is required for Rural Councils. Especially in the case of Towong where we have demonstrated that we have developed a robust long term financial plan, we have implemented cost reductions over many years now, increased efficiencies in the organisation and explored</p>  |

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|                                   | alternative revenue opportunities. We will use this information at every opportunity to argue and to support our case for increased funding for Towong Shire, from all levels of government. |
| <b>Possible Actions:</b>          | Nil.   |
| <b>Additional Info Available:</b> | Nil.   |

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE COUNCILLOR REPORTS BE NOTED.**

**16 Urgent business**

No Urgent Business.

**17 Committee Minutes**

No Committee Minutes.

**18 Occupational health and safety**

**18.1 OHS Committee (06/04/0212-DCCS)**

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 17 August 2017 are attached at [Appendix 6](#) for information.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE UNCONFIRMED OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE MINUTES BE NOTED.**

## **19 Council policies (10/01/0007-CEO)**

The following policies were tabled for review at the 2 May 2017 Council meeting and are presented at **Appendix 7** for adoption. Please note that recommended changes are shown in red.

- Disabled Access Funding (DTS)
- Disability Access (DCCS)
- Employee Recognition (DCCS)
- Flexi Time (DCCS)

### **RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE FOLLOWING POLICIES AS PRESENTED BE ADOPTED:**

- **DISABLED ACCESS FUNDING**
- **DISABILITY ACCESS**
- **EMPLOYEE RECOGNITION**
- **FLEXI TIME**

There are no policies tabled for review this month.

## **20 Sealing of documents**

No documents for sealing.

## **21 Confidential**

In accordance with S77 (2) information is 'confidential information' if:

(a) the information was provided to the Council or a special committee in relation to a matter considered by the Council or special committee at a meeting closed to members of the public and the Council or special committee has not passed a resolution that the information is not confidential; or

(b) the information has been designated as confidential information by a resolution of the Council or a special committee which specifies the relevant ground or grounds applying under section 89(2) and the Council or special committee has not passed a resolution that the information is not confidential; or

(c) Subject to sub-section (3), the information has been designated in writing as confidential information by the Chief Executive Officer specifying the relevant ground

or grounds applying under section 89(2) and the Council has not passed a resolution that the information is not confidential.

In accordance with Section 89(2) and 89(3) of the Local Government Act 1989,

(2) A Council or special committee may resolve that the meeting be closed to members of the public if the meeting is discussing any of the following—

- (a) Personnel matters;
- (b) The personal hardship of any resident or ratepayer;
- (c) Industrial matters;
- (d) Contractual matters;
- (e) Proposed developments;
- (f) Legal advice;
- (g) Matters affecting the security of Council property;
- (h) Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person;
- (i) A resolution to close the meeting to members of the public.

(3) If a Council or special committee resolves to close a meeting to members of the public the reason must be recorded in the minutes of the meeting.

**RECOMMENDATION:**

**THAT THE MEETING BE CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC TO CONSIDER INFORMATION CONSIDERED UNDER SECTION 89(2)(h) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT TO BE CONFIDENTIAL.**

## **21.1 Tender Assessment – Labour Hire and Technology Solutions (07/03/0002 – DCCS)**

## **21.2 Bellbridge Childcare (04/03/0045 – DCCS)**