

Agenda

Ordinary Meeting of Council

Corryong Council Office

Tuesday 7 July 2015

This information is available in alternative formats on request

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| <p style="text-align: center;">AGENDA FOR THE ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL TO BE HELD AT THE TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL, CORRYONG OFFICE ON TUESDAY 7 JULY 2015 COMMENCING AT 10.00 AM.</p> |
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1 Appointment of Acting Mayor

As Mayor Wortmann will be absent from the meeting today, it is a requirement of section 73(3) of the Local Government Act 1989 that Council appoint a Councillor to be Acting Mayor.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT CR SCALES BE APPOINTED ACTING MAYOR FOR THE PURPOSE OF CONDUCTING THE COUNCIL MEETING TODAY.

2 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."

3 Councillor and Officer presence at the meeting

Crs Scales, Fraser and Gadd

| In Attendance: | Title: |
|-----------------------|---|
| J Phelps | Chief Executive Officer |
| J Heritage | Director Technical Services |
| J Shannon | Director Community and Corporate Services |

4 Apologies and granting of leave of absence

Crs Wortmann and Joyce were granted leave of absence at the June Council meeting for the 7 July 2015 Council meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE LEAVE OF ABSENCE BE NOTED FOR CRS WORTMANN AND JOYCE.

5 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.

6 Confirmation of minutes

2 June 2015

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MINUTES OF THE ORDINARY MEETING HELD ON 2 JUNE 2015 AS CIRCULATED BE CONFIRMED.

7 Petitions, joint letters and declarations

8 Assembly of Councillors

A written record of the Assemblies of Councillors from 2 June to 30 June 2015 is included at Appendix 1.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE INFORMATION BE NOTED.

9 Open Forum

10 Organisational improvement

10.1 Finance Report as at 31 May 2015 (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 | May-15 (Actual) \$'000 | May-15 (Budget) \$'000 | YTD (Actual) \$'000 | YTD (Budget) \$'000 | YTD (Variance) \$'000 | YTD (Variance) % | 2014/15 Full Year (Budget) \$'000 | 2014/15 Full Year (Achieved) % |
|--------------------|------|------------------------------|------------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------------|--|---|
| Income | 1 | 1,806 | 1,285 | 17,338 | 16,583 | 755 | 5% | 17,142 | 101% |
| Expenditure | 2 | 722 | 801 | 9,511 | 9,977 | 466 | 5% | 15,090 | 63% |
| Surplus/ (Deficit) | | 1,084 | 484 | 7,827 | 6,606 | 1,221 | 18% | 2,052 | 381% |

Table 1: Operating Result

Note 1:

Council YTD income of \$17.3 million is \$755,000 more than budgeted at this point in time. Major items contributing to the YTD variance include:

- Receiving \$226,000 as the final claim for the works carried out to rectify the March 2012 flood damage (not budgeted)
- Receiving \$150,000 under the Local Government Infrastructure Program that is in excess of the budget for the 2014/15 year. This is in line with the funding agreement over the four year program (timing variance)
- Receiving \$87,000 for improvements to the Towong Grandstand (not budgeted) from the Public Safety on Public Land program and Towong Turf Club
- Receiving \$594,000 for Blackspot funding ahead of budget (timing variance)
- Awaiting on work to commence at Wyeboo Multi Purpose Community Facility to lodge milestone claim of \$222,500 (timing variance, expected in June 2015)
- Awaiting progression of Milestone 3 for the Narrows Project \$120,000 (timing variance)

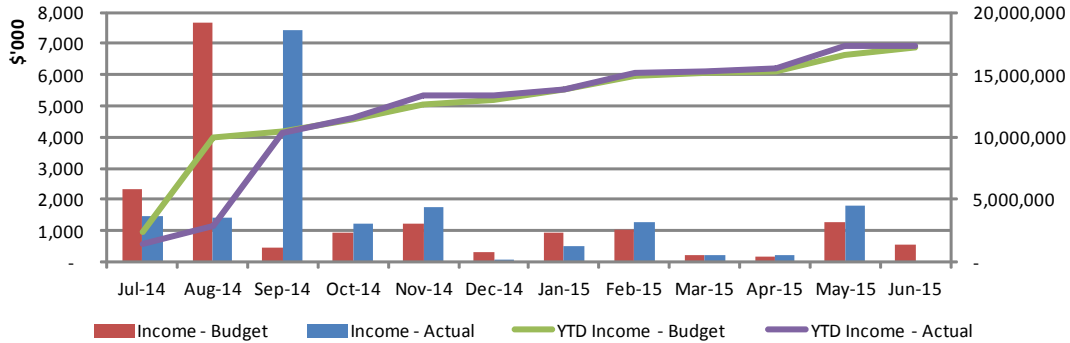
Note 2:

The favourable expenditure variance of \$466,000 is due to:

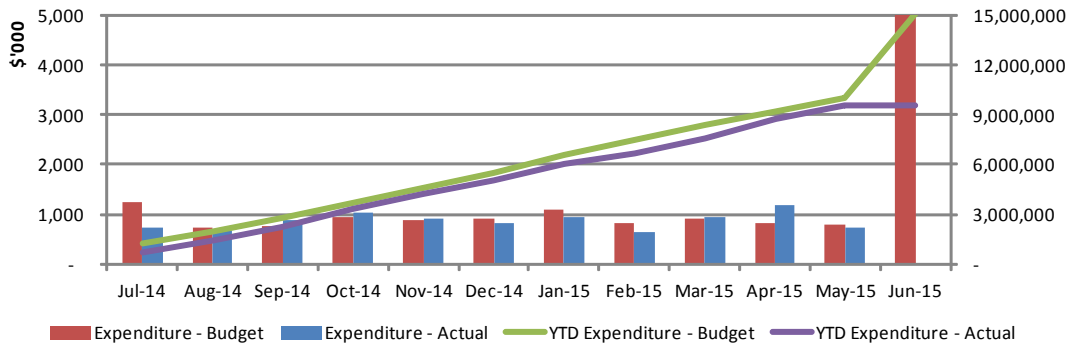
- timing of expenditure in various Economic Development projects and Community Development projects
- Vacancies in Executive Services of \$180,000
- 2014/15 insurance premiums prepaid in the prior financial year \$80,000

Operating Result

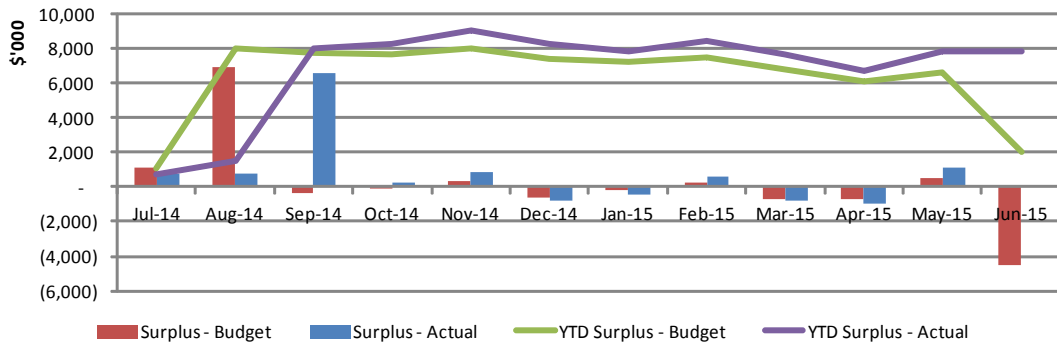
Income



Expenditure



Operating Surplus



Grant Income

| | Note | May-15 | YTD | YTD | YTD | YTD | 2014/15 | 2014/15 |
|-----------------|------|--------------|--------------|--------------|------------|-------------|--------------|------------|
| | | (Actual) | (Actual) | (Budget) | (Variance) | (Variance) | Full | Full |
| | | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | \$'000 | % | Year | Year |
| | | | | | | | (Budget) | (Achieved) |
| | | | | | | | \$'000 | % |
| Recurring | 1 | 1,573 | 6,432 | 6,264 | 168 | 103% | 6,295 | 102% |
| Non-Competitive | 2 | (29) | 264 | 33 | 231 | 800% | 37 | 714% |
| Competitive | 3 | 201 | 1,414 | 1,642 | (228) | 86% | 1,973 | 72% |
| Total | | 1,745 | 8,110 | 7,939 | 171 | 102% | 8,305 | 98% |

Table 2: Grant Income

Note 1:

Council has received \$150,000 in excess of the YTD budget for Local Government Infrastructure Program funding in the 2014/15 year. This is in line with the funding agreement over the four year program. Council has also received \$72,000 in excess of the YTD budget for Kindergarten funding due to an increase in the per capita funding, additional small rural kindergarten funding and a prior year adjustment.

Council is yet to receive the grant of \$100,000 for budgeted carried forward works for Roads to Recovery.

Note 2:

Council has received \$226,000 for final settlement of works carried out on damage from the 2012 March floods which was unbudgeted in the 2014/15 year.

Note 3:

Council has not yet received grants for:

- The Narrows Project \$120,000 (timing variance)
- Wyeeboo Multi Purpose Facility \$222,500 (timing variance)

Additional unbudgeted grants have been received as follows:

- \$67,000 for the final amount for the Tallangatta Multi Sport Precinct
- \$47,000 for the Towong Racecourse Grandstand
- \$30,000 for the High Country Rail Trail (Tallangatta Path Linkage Project)

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

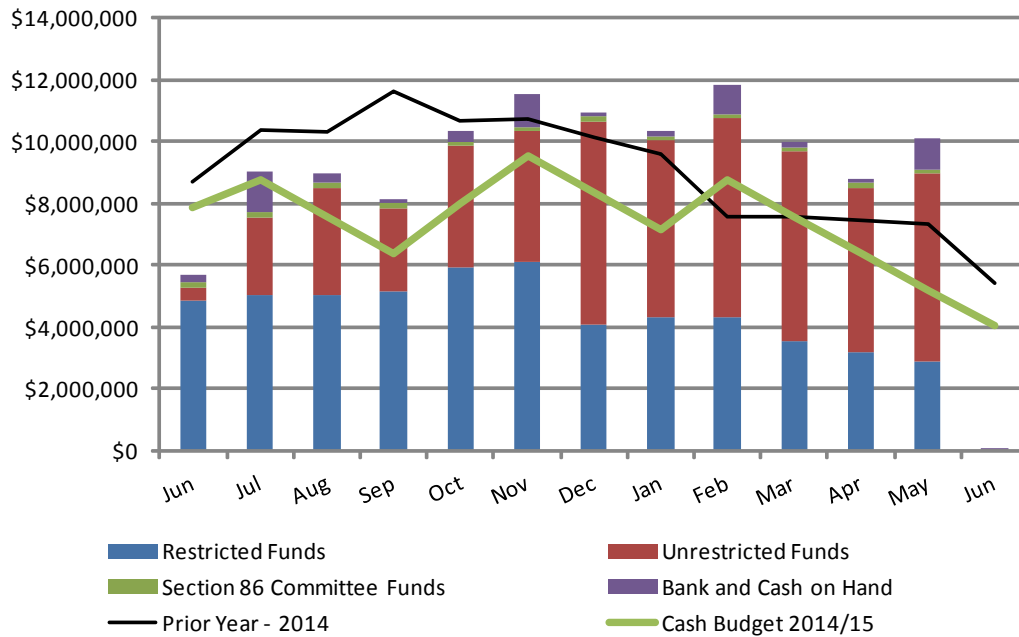
| | \$'000 |
|---|--------------|
| Recurring | |
| VGC General Purpose Funding | 2,291 |
| VGC Local Roads Funding | 1,375 |
| Country Roads and Bridges | 1,000 |
| R2R Supplementary | 618 |
| LG Infrastructure Projects | 490 |
| Corryong Pre School | 147 |
| Maternal and Child Health | 125 |
| Library | 106 |
| Berringa Pre School | 98 |
| Tallangatta Pre School | 87 |
| Municipal Emergency Response Program | 60 |
| State Emergency Service Corryong | 13 |
| State Emergency Service Tallangatta | 13 |
| State Emergency Service Mitta | 7 |
| Health Admin | 3 |
| Total Recurring Grants | 6,432 |
| Competitive and Non-Competitive | |
| Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre | 450 |
| Magorra Park (DSE) | 289 |
| Flood Recovery | 226 |
| Wyeewoo Multi Purpose Facility | 178 |
| Berringa Pre School (Upgrade) | 75 |
| Upper Murray 2030 Vision | 75 |
| Tallangatta Multi-sport Precinct | 68 |
| Towong Racecourse (DSE) | 47 |
| L2P Program | 45 |
| The Narrows Project | 40 |
| Community Access | 38 |
| High Country Rail Trail Upgrade (DSE) | 30 |
| Our Valley Our Future | 25 |
| Cudgewa Multi Purpose Facility (DSE) | 23 |
| Tallangatta Neighbourhood House | 20 |
| Colac Colac Bike Path | 12 |
| Freeza Funding | 12 |
| Health Promotions (Walk to School) | 10 |
| Comm Health & Wellbeing | 10 |
| Caravan Park Masterplan | 3 |
| Seniors Week | 2 |
| Total Competitive and Non-Competitive Grants | 1,678 |
| Total Grants Received | 8,110 |

CASH POSITION

Cash on Hand

The cash position moved during the month as detailed below:

| | Current Month May-15 \$ | Prior Month Apr-15 \$ | Variance | |
|----------------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------|------------------|--------------|
| | | | \$ | % |
| Unexpended Grants | 2,658,407 | 2,924,926 | (266,519) | -9.1% |
| Provisions and reserves | 232,000 | 232,000 | - | 0.0% |
| Restricted Funds | 2,890,407 | 3,156,926 | (266,519) | -8.4% |
| Unrestricted Funds | 6,077,812 | 5,358,658 | 719,154 | 13.4% |
| Section 86 Committee Funds | 136,082 | 136,082 | - | 0.0% |
| Total Investments | 9,104,300 | 8,651,665 | 452,635 | 5.2% |
| Bank and Cash on Hand | 995,523 | 124,568 | 870,955 | 699.2% |
| Total Cash | 10,099,823 | 8,776,233 | 1,323,590 | 15.1% |
| Average Interest Rate | 3.24% | 3.29% | | |



Restricted Funds

| \$'000 | |
|---|--------------|
| Unexpended Grants | |
| Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre | 1,146 |
| Country Roads and Bridges | 708 |
| Wyeeboo Multi Purpose Facility | 130 |
| LG Infrastructure Projects | 86 |
| Municipal Emergency Response Program | 75 |
| Berringa Pre School (Upgrade) | 75 |
| Community Access | 73 |
| Our Valley Our Future | 61 |
| Tallangatta Neighbourhood House | 51 |
| Flood Recovery Officer | 42 |
| The Narrows Project | 38 |
| Children Services Review | 35 |
| Local Gov Business Collaboration | 32 |
| High Country Rail Trail Upgrade (DSE) | 30 |
| Upper Murray 2030 Vision | 27 |
| Bushfire Management Overlay | 13 |
| Weed Project | 11 |
| Improving Liveability of Older People | 10 |
| Freeza Funding | 9 |
| Health Promotions (Walk to School) | 4 |
| Fire Access Track Maintenance | 1 |
| Total Unexpended Grants | 2,658 |
| Provisions and Reserves | |
| Landfill Rehabilitation | 232 |
| Total Provisions and Reserves | 232 |
| Total Restricted Funds | 2,890 |

Investments

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

| Date | Product | Institution | Principal | Yield | Term | Rating | Maturity |
|--------------------------|----------------|--------------------|------------------|-------|----------|--------|------------|
| 17/03/2015 | Term Deposit | NAB | 1,000,000 | 3.00% | 91 Days | A1+ | 16/06/2015 |
| 22/07/2014 | Term Deposit | NAB | 1,000,000 | 3.45% | 182 Days | A1+ | 21/07/2015 |
| 15/10/2014 | Term Deposit | AMP | 1,500,000 | 3.50% | 280 Days | A1 | 22/07/2015 |
| 11/03/2015 | Term Deposit | Bank of Queensland | 1,000,000 | 3.10% | 119 Days | A2 | 8/07/2015 |
| 17/03/2015 | Term Deposit | ING Bank | 1,000,000 | 3.03% | 183 Days | A2 | 16/09/2015 |
| 22/12/2014 | Term Deposit | Westpac | 2,000,000 | 3.50% | 180 Days | A1+ | 22/06/2015 |
| 26/03/2015 | Term Deposit | WAW | 821,612 | 3.10% | 90 Days | | 26/06/2015 |
| N/A | Online Saver | Westpac/ANZ | 646,607 | 2.25% | On Call | AA- | N/A |
| N/A | S86 Committees | Various | 136,082 | 4.68% | N/A | | N/A |
| Total Investments | | | 9,104,300 | | | | |

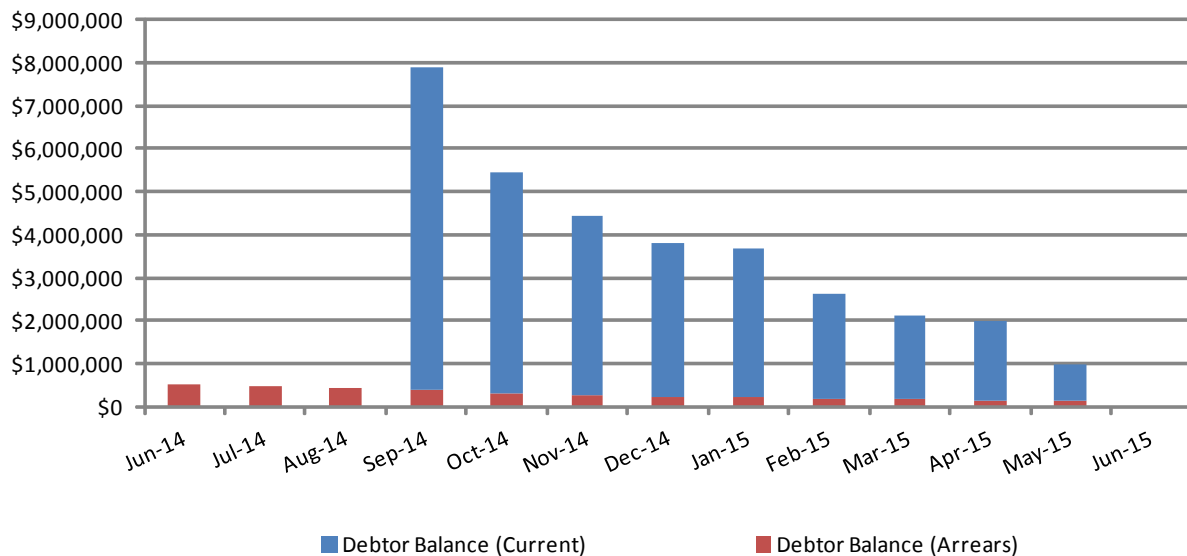
Table 4: Investments at month end

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:

| Rates, charges and FSPL Debtors | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------|------------------|-------------|------------------|-----------|----------------|
| | Amount | Received | % Collected | Received | Collected | Balance |
| | \$ | May-15 | May-15 | YTD | YTD | Outstanding |
| | \$ | \$ | % | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| Levied 2014/15 | 7,687,424 | 997,186 | 13.0% | 6,823,396 | 88.8% | 864,028 |
| Arrears prior to 2014/15 | 502,975 | 13,662 | 2.7% | 367,323 | 73.0% | 135,652 |
| Total Charges | | 1,010,848 | | 7,190,718 | | 999,680 |

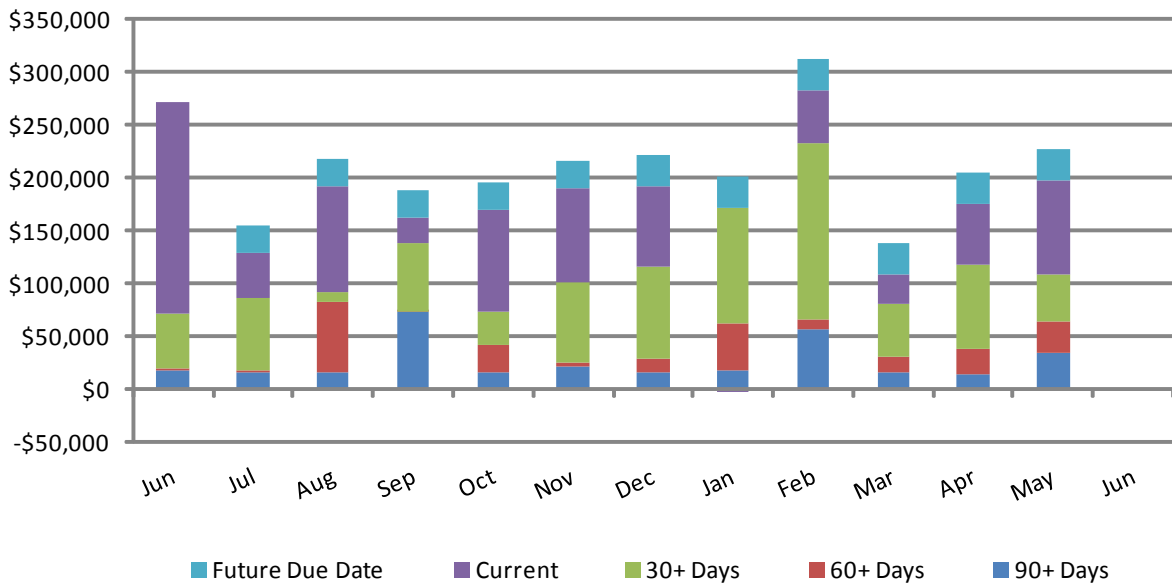


Rates and charges for 2014/15 were levied in September 2014.

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 |
|-------------------|-----------------|---------|----------|---------|----------|---------|
| | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ | \$ |
| May 2015 | 29,453 | 87,404 | 44,332 | 30,605 | 34,268 | 226,062 |
| April 2015 | 29,453 | 58,004 | 80,098 | 24,229 | 13,509 | 205,293 |
| Movement | - | 29,400 | (35,766) | 6,376 | 20,759 | 20,768 |



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

| Debtor | Amount | Description | RO | Notes |
|---------------|---------------|--------------------------------|-----------|-----------------------------|
| Debtor 8411 | \$1,580 | Contribution | JS | Payment has been requested. |
| Debtor 10266 | \$21,665 | Cost recovery | BP | Payment since made 9/6/15. |
| Debtor 17007 | \$2,950 | Infringement Notice | JS | * Refer note below |
| Debtor 15570 | \$1,440 | Cost recovery | JS | * Refer note below |
| Debtor 19755 | \$1,548 | Cost recovery for weed control | JS | * Refer note below |

Table 6: Significant debtors > 90 days

* The Director Community and Corporate Services has reviewed this debt and a report will be presented to Council at the 7 July 2015 Council Workshop.

LOCAL ROADS

Local Roads and Bridges Capital Works

| | Note | YTD Actual | YTD Budget | Variance | Annual Budget |
|---------------------------|-------------|-------------------|-------------------|-----------------|----------------------|
| | | \$ | | \$ | \$ |
| 402 Survey and Design | | 2,311 | 50,000 | 47,689 | 50,000 |
| 410 Road Construction | 1 | 677,070 | 808,128 | 131,058 | 808,128 |
| 416 Sealing | 2 | 86,348 | 25,000 | (61,348) | 25,000 |
| 417 Resealing | | 690,629 | 675,000 | (15,629) | 675,000 |
| 420 Drainage Construction | 3 | 56,802 | 30,000 | (26,802) | 30,000 |
| 421 Digouts | 4 | 502,973 | 415,000 | (87,973) | 415,000 |
| 422 Resheeting | 5 | 140,205 | 230,000 | 89,795 | 230,000 |
| 432 Footpaths | 6 | 70,052 | 254,596 | 184,544 | 254,596 |
| 433 Kerb and Channel | 7 | 24,687 | 113,000 | 88,313 | 166,504 |
| 442 Guardrails | | 16,172 | 16,000 | (172) | 16,000 |
| 450 Bridge Construction | 8 | 480,573 | 1,054,926 | 574,353 | 1,054,926 |
| Total | | 2,747,822 | 3,671,650 | 923,828 | 3,725,154 |

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

Note 1:

Towong Street upgrade \$80,000 will be carried forward pending the Round 2 National Stronger Regions grant application (Destination Tallangatta) and Georges Creek Road is now complete and was delivered for \$58,000 less than the original budget.

Note 2:

Harvey Street, Walwa Street and Kyilla Street sealing were budgeted to be completed in June 2014 but completed in July. This appears as an over spend in 2014/15.

Note 3:

Callaghan Creek culverts of \$27,000 has been overspent in Drainage, though offset from an under spend in Bridge Construction.

Note 4:

Overspend on digouts was offset by funding redirected from Country Roads and Bridges for McHargs Bridge.

Note 5:

Resheeting is ongoing until June with some delays experienced due to wet weather (timing variance).

Note 6:

The Footpath replacement program has been completed with some invoices still to be received. \$112,000 will be carried forward into 2015/16 pending the Tallangatta Revitalisation grant funding approval and the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre construction (timing variance).

Note 7:

\$54,000 of Kerb and Channel works will be carried forward pending the outcome of our Round 2 National Stronger Regions grant application (Destination Tallangatta) and the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre construction (timing variance).

Note 8:

Bridge construction is complete with final invoices yet to be received (timing variance). Reallocation of budget to digouts and drainage per above.

Local Roads and Bridges Maintenance

| | Note | YTD Actual \$ | YTD Budget \$ | Variance \$ | Annual Budget \$ |
|----------------------------------|------|------------------|------------------|-----------------|---------------------|
| 301 Inspections | | 105 | - | (105) | - |
| 302 Survey and Design | | 15,296 | 4,587 | (10,709) | 10,000 |
| 304 Pavement Maintenance | | 127,989 | 150,000 | 22,011 | 150,000 |
| 306 Grading | 1 | 516,233 | 421,663 | (94,570) | 460,000 |
| 308 Shoulder Maintenance | 1 | 80,597 | 91,663 | 11,066 | 100,000 |
| 310 Drainage Maintenance | 1 | 130,842 | 155,837 | 24,995 | 170,000 |
| 316 Reseals | | 1,787 | - | (1,787) | - |
| 320 Digouts | | 2,500 | - | (2,500) | - |
| 324 General Roadside Maintenance | 2 | 101,111 | 68,750 | (32,361) | 75,000 |
| 330 F/Path Maintenance | | 10,141 | 8,000 | (2,141) | 8,000 |
| 331 K and C Maintenance | | 125 | 5,000 | 4,875 | 5,000 |
| 334 Roadside Treatments | | 1,654 | 15,000 | 13,346 | 15,000 |
| 336 Signs Maintenance | | 6,946 | 16,000 | 9,054 | 17,000 |
| 338 Linemarking | | 845 | 10,000 | 9,155 | 10,000 |
| 340 Guideposts | | 9,996 | 6,413 | (3,583) | 7,000 |
| 342 Guardrail | | 5,000 | 5,000 | - | 5,000 |
| 346 Bridge Maintenance | | 16,789 | 26,202 | 9,413 | 28,584 |
| Total | | 1,027,956 | 984,115 | (43,841) | 1,060,584 |

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

Note 1:

The grading, shoulder and drainage maintenance works are now complete (timing variance).

Note 2:

More maintenance required due to wet weather and stock grids. Blackberry spraying was more substantial than originally anticipated.

OTHER FINANCIAL MATTERS

Victorian Grants Commission allocation 2015/16

The Federal Government provides Financial Assistance Grants to local government through the Victorian Grants Commission (VGC) with the funding split between a General Purpose Grant and Local Road Funding. The VGC has now advised Council of the latest indicative allocation of Financial Assistance Grants for 2015/16.

Council has had a reduction in both the General Purpose Grants and Local Road Funding as follows:

| | 2014/15 Allocation | 2015/16 Indicative Allocation | Change to Allocation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| General Purpose Grants | 2,243,999 | 2,207,612 | (36,387) |
| Natural Disasters | 35,000 | - | - |
| Local Road Funding | 1,366,993 | 1,339,653 | (27,340) |
| | <u>3,645,992</u> | <u>3,547,265</u> | <u>(63,727)</u> |

To provide stability the VGC has established limits beyond which a funding increase or decrease is capped. The decrease in Local Road Funding for 2015/16 has been capped at 2%. This indicates that it is likely to decrease in future years. Further information has been requested to establish the reason(s) behind the reduction and to quantify Council's allocation had the cap not been applied.

The above allocations have been included in the adopted budget for 2015/16.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE FINANCE REPORT BE NOTED.

10.2 Electoral Representation Review

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 Local Government Act 1989 required the Victorian Electoral Commission (VEC) to conduct an electoral representation review of each municipality in Victoria before every third council general election.

The purpose of the review is to recommend an electoral structure that provides fair and equitable representation for the persons who are entitled to vote at a general election of the council.

The last electoral representation review for Council took place in 2004. That review recommended that Towong Shire Council consist of five councillors elected from an unsubdivided structure.

The VEC has completed its most recent electoral representation review of the Towong Shire Council. The final report in relation to the review is attached at Appendix 2.

The final report details the Electoral Commissioner's recommendation to the Minister for Local Government that Towong Shire Council continue to consist of five councillors elected from an unsubdivided municipality.

Pursuant to section 219F(11) of the *Local Government Act 1989* Council must ensure that a copy of the final report is available for public inspection at the office of the council during normal office hours for the period of at least three months after the report is received. Copies of the report are available at both the Tallangatta and Corryong Council offices.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE FINAL REPORT IN RELATION TO THE ELECTORAL REPRESENTATION REVIEW OF TOWONG SHIRE COUNCIL BE NOTED.

10.3 State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey Results (10/09/0002-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:

For the fourteen year period from 1998 until 2011 Council participated in the annual State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey. Following the 2011 survey (which delivered the best results Council had achieved in the fourteen year period) it was decided, due to the high cost of participating in the survey, that Council would not continue its participation.

With the recent adoption by the State of the Performance Reporting Framework for Local Government it was necessary for Council to participate in the State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey in order to meet the requirements of the Performance Reporting Framework.

The 2015 State-wide Community Satisfaction Survey was conducted by JWS Research during February and March. Four hundred (400) Towong Shire residents/ratepayers were interviewed by telephone by JWS Research.

Council's survey results were received recently and it is pleasing to report that we have achieved excellent results, especially when compared to the State-wide averages and Small Rural Council averages.

A copy of the full report is attached at Appendix 3.

Of particular note is Council's Overall Performance Score of 64 which is significantly higher than the State-wide average of 60 and the Small Rural Councils average of 59.

Council's results for the following areas are significantly higher than the State-wide average:

- Consultation and engagement
- Emergency and disaster management
- Unsealed roads
- Sealed local roads
- Making community decisions

On a scale of very good to very poor, the survey results show that 56% of those surveyed felt Council's overall performance was good or very good and 66% felt that Council's customer service was also good or very good.

Impact on Council Policy:

Nil.

State Government Policy Impacts:

It is a requirement of the Performance Reporting Framework that Council measures:

- Satisfaction with community consultation and engagement
- Satisfaction with council decisions
- Satisfaction with sealed local roads

Budget Impact:

The cost to participate in the survey was \$11,500.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

A media release is being prepared to share the results of the survey with our residents and ratepayers.

Discussion/Officers View:

Whilst there is always room for improvement, the survey results should give Council comfort that our residents and ratepayers are generally satisfied with the direction of Council. But it is very important that we continue to seek ways to improve how we do business, including how we engage with our communities and advocate on their behalf.

In light of the pressure to spend ratepayer funds wisely and given the good results achieved by Council in this survey (as well as the 2011 survey), Council may wish to consider raising with the Minister for Local Government the need to participate in the survey each year just for the sake of providing the three Performance Reporting Indicators required by the State. The Chief Executive Officer will speak to this issue at the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

10.4 Restoration of Indexation to Financial Assistance Grants (07/05/0007-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:

In its 2014/15 Budget the Commonwealth Government announced that there would be a freeze on indexation of the local government Financial Assistance Grants (FAGs) for three years until 2017/18.

Whilst the freeze is estimated to cost councils \$295 million by 2017/18, the impact will continue beyond that date because the base level of the grant will be permanently reduced by as much as 13%.

The Financial Assistance Grants are a vital part of the revenue base of all councils.

For smaller rural and remote councils, the Financial Assistance Grants form a significant part of their revenue.

In Towong's case the grants represent 26% of our Total Operating Revenue (after excluding capital grants).

Impact on Council Policy:

The continuation of the indexation freeze will have a significant financial impact on Council and accordingly it will be necessary to continue our review of operations with a view to determining where further savings can be made or alternatively where reduction and cuts to services are necessary.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Given Council's small rate base and heavy reliance on State and Federal grant funding, the restoration of indexation to the Financial Assistance Grants is vitally important, particularly in light of the State Government's Rate Capping Policy which will come into effect from the 2016/17 financial year.

Budget Impact:

The Budget impact of the indexation freeze for Towong is set out below.

Given that a 1% increase to rate revenue is equivalent to approximately \$50,000 the impact of the freeze is significant.

| | |
|----------------|---------------------------|
| Year 1 2014/15 | \$107,567 |
| Year 2 2015/16 | \$218,360 |
| Year 3 2016/17 | \$332,478 |
| Total | <u>\$658,405</u> ===== |

Attached at Appendix 4 is the response we recently sent to the MAV following their request for details of the impact of the freeze on councils together with the measures Council has taken to-date to manage the impact of the freeze. This information will be used by the MAV and Australian Local Government Association (ALGA) in their campaign for the reinstatement of the indexation.

We have recently been provided with the indicative 2015/16 grant allocation by the Victorian Grants Commission. The indicative 2015/16 allocation is shown in the following table against the actual 2014/15 allocation:

| | 2014/15 Allocation | 2015/16 Indicative Allocation | Change to Allocation |
|------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---------------------------------|
| General Purpose Grants | 2,243,999 | 2,207,612 | (36,387) |
| Natural Disasters | 35,000 | - | - |
| Local Road Funding | 1,366,993 | 1,339,653 | (27,340) |
| | <u>3,645,992</u> | <u>3,547,265</u> | <u>(63,727)</u> |

Risk Assessment:

Our Council has worked extremely hard over the past 4-5 years to be as efficient and lean as possible. We do not take spending ratepayer funds lightly and a number of changes have been made to our operations which have yielded an estimated \$250k+ in savings per annum. Whilst a formal Risk Assessment has not been carried out it is clear that the potential risks associated with the reduction in funding resulting from the freeze are the reduction or cutting of services and infrastructure maintenance and/or an increasing underlying deficit which may bring Council's financial sustainability into question at some stage in the future.

Community Consultation/Responses:

At every opportunity the community is informed of the challenges being faced by Council.

Discussion/Officers View:

There is no dispute as to the importance of the Financial Assistance Grants.

Our Council, with our small rate base and no own-source external funding, is heavily reliant on State and Federal grant funding. This is no different to other small rural and remote Councils.

The Chief Executive Officer's recommendation is set out below.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT;

1. COUNCIL ACKNOWLEDGE THE IMPORTANCE OF THE FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE GRANTS IN PROVIDING COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES;

2. A LETTER OF THANKS BE SENT TO THE AUSTRALIAN GOVERNMENT, HIGHLIGHTING THE IMPORTANCE AND SIGNIFICANCE OF THE GRANT IN TERMS OF COUNCIL'S OVERALL BUDGET AND COUNCIL'S INABILITY TO RAISE ADDITIONAL REVENUE FROM RATEPAYERS OR GENERATE OWN-SOURCE REVENUE; AND

3. THE LETTER INCLUDE A REQUEST FOR THE INDEXATION TO BE REINSTATED FROM 2016/17 AND THE GRANT BASE BE INCREASED TO THE LEVEL IT WOULD HAVE BEEN HAD THE FREEZE NOT HAVE BEEN IMPLEMENTED.

10.5 Action Sheet Reports (06/05/0010-EA)

Items requiring action from the 2 June 2015 Council Meeting are attached at Appendix 5.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

10.6 Performance Reporting Graphs (DCCS)

The Performance Reporting Graphs are attached at Appendix 6 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

11 Community wellbeing

11.1 Community Wellbeing Report (01/07/0004-DCCS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Ms Penelope Sell, Manager Community Services.

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:

This report is a bi-monthly report on Community Services activities throughout the Shire.

Kindergarten Services

Berringa Community Centre renovations are nearing completion. The Kindergarten parent group has volunteered to assist with the outdoor landscaping. Licensing is currently being reviewed to increase available placements from 27 to 45.

Consultation has recently been undertaken with Corryong Kindergarten families and the service will move to a two day per week session commencing in term three. This model supports both community and staffing needs.

Renovations to the Corryong Kindergarten will commence during the September School holidays. Parents have volunteered to assist with any tasks deemed suitable by the Project Manager. Improvements at the Corryong Kindergarten will include:

- A new children's bathroom and change facilities
- New floor coverings
- New adult and children's interior art sink
- A new information technology area for children
- Interior painting and some minor furnishings.

We were recently successful in securing funding for Corryong Kindergarten's Director, Diane Stephens, to attend the 'Together we will grow' conference in Melbourne. The learning will be shared across our services to improve program delivery and to expand staff knowledge on early years teaching.

All kindergarten employees recently completed compulsory First Aid training and will also undertake Anaphylaxis and Asthma training during the June 2015 Curriculum Day.

Two grant applications have recently been submitted for information technology resources at Corryong and a shade sail at the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre (TICC).

Maternal and Child Health Services

During the month of July 2015, Council will survey parents who recently completed parenting courses conducted in Corryong, Mitta Mitta and Tallangatta.

Immunisations

We have reviewed our immunisation service (provided by Wodonga City Council) and a report will be provided to Council at the July Workshop by the Director Community and Corporate Services.

Library Services

Council's Library staff recently provided input on library space use for the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre (TICC). Staff considered practical use, security, stock levels and furnishings for the TICC Project Control Group to consider.

The Tallangatta Library staff have begun the process of identifying new book stocks for the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre. Purchasing will occur during the 2015/2016 financial year.

Seniors

A \$2,500 grant has been secured from the State Government to host a 2015 celebration for our seniors.

The Manager Community Services and Youth Officer recently attended a workshop in Benalla to share experiences of preparing and hosting events for seniors. As a result of the meeting, the Community Services team was able to negotiate a partnership agreement with Wodonga City Council and the State Government to enable our residents to attend an 'Athol Guy' performance at the Cube Wodonga on 1 October 2015. Athol George Guy, AO, is a member of the Australian pop music group The Seekers, for whom he plays double bass and sings.

Community Services has also been successful in negotiating a \$10,000 grant to support Council's 2016 Seniors' event. It is envisaged that the project will enable young people to work with seniors to produce a series of digital stories. The stories will be show-cased as part of the annual celebrations.

Recreation facilities

We are still awaiting a decision on the application to Sport and Recreation Victoria under the Country Football Netball grant program, to consider the construction of new netball courts in Tallangatta and Eskdale.

The Talgarno Tennis Club lighting project will be progressed over the coming months.

0-8 Network

The current 0-8 Network currently operates within the Tallangatta area. A draft Governance model has been circulated to participants to set a framework for future expansion of the network across the Shire. It is proposed that the governance model will provide clear working parameters, objectives and enable prioritisation of strategy development.

The existing Tallangatta 0-8 Network Group has identified the following priority activities:

- develop a Family Support Directory with the assistance of the LaTrobe University. Ms Sue Reid, Health Nurse with Tallangatta Health Services, is investigating the possibilities.
- extend the 'Walk to School' promotion program to the general Tallangatta community, schools, Kindergartens and play groups. The Community Services team has applied for \$10,000 for a 2015 'Walk to School' promotion to support this.
- investigate additional ways to strengthen partnerships between Maternal and Child Health, local schools and the health service.

Youth Services

The 'Wheel Talk Program' was recently delivered to the Corryong Secondary College as part of Council's recent 'Speak Out Loud' event. Students were provided with a motivational guest speaker and then participated in a game of wheelchair basketball to gain a perspective on how a disability may impact one's life. Over 30 students participated.

Nine local schools from across the Shire recently participated in an ANZAC wreath making project that encouraged students to learn the history of our ANZACs and the significance of the wreath. Forty wreaths were presented by students at ANZAC ceremonies across the Shire.

The Youth Officer recently attended a FReeZA and Youth Development meeting. This provided opportunity to meet with other youth officers in the North east region to gain a broader perspective of funding and other potential projects.

The Community Services team is working closely with Corryong stakeholders to deliver:

- a DJ workshop and Rockorryong Disco in August (utilising grant funded DJ equipment)
- a weekend leadership camp for Corryong and Tallangatta Secondary College students.

The team, in partnership with Wangaratta's Centre for Continuing Education and the Corryong Neighbourhood Centre, recently facilitated a workshop in Corryong to support Volunteer Recruitment. The event attracted 15 people.

Children's Services Review

Jan Barrett Consulting and Local Logic consultancy services have been engaged to undertake the Children's Services Review. The community profiling work has been completed and the project is running to schedule. Community workshops will occur in coming months to provide the community with an opportunity for input into the process.

The Children's Services review will make recommendations on the future delivery of children's services in the Shire.

Community Development

The initial development phase of the three year Tallangatta Neighborhood House plan has been completed. The Community Services team will further consult with the Tallangatta community in July 2015, to better understand potential community programming ideas and opportunities for the future establishment of a Neighbourhood House in Tallangatta. Throughout this process, the Community Services team will also seek potential community interest in establishing an advisory committee to support the establishment and development of a Neighbourhood House.

On completion of the community engagement process and development of a three year plan, a recommendation will be put forward for Council consideration.

Access and Inclusion Officer

The 'Speak Out Loud' event was conducted on Friday 1 May at the Corryong Youth Hall from 10am to 2pm. The event was developed in partnership with the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) with DHHS contributing \$3,000 in sponsorship. It was considered a success, attracting over 25 stall holders (representing key health and human service agencies to facilitate and support community needs) and over 50 community members.

At the conclusion of the event DHHS facilitated a community and stakeholder workshop to better understand the challenges of our communities and agencies for improved service delivery. Workshop discussions identified the following priorities for future consideration by DHHS and Council:

- To review hospital discharge policies for rural people - Wodonga Hospital
- To better support housing maintenance programs
- To facilitate ongoing promotion and access to key agencies for support
- To improve Early Years services by better connecting them with educational programs e.g. Positive parenting programs.
- To facilitate a new residential development project to cater for socio-economically disadvantaged community members.

The Community Services team is undertaking final reviews of the following key deliverables:

- Three year Access and Inclusion Plan
- Access and Inclusion Database
- 'All Abilities Day'
- Access and Inclusion resources for local businesses and community.

Council Plan 2013-2017

The Community Services team has completed approximately 90% of planned priorities, including successful funding applications, strategy implementation and service delivery.

Impact on Council Policy:

The Community Services team will continue to focus on delivering on the 2013-2017 Council Plan strategic objectives with consideration for future strategy development.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Activities align with key criteria of the following policies:

- Victorian Early Years Policy
- Victorian Health Policy
- Victorian Mental Health Policy
- Victorian Sport and Recreation Policy.

Activities also support:

- The *Victorian Public Health and Wellbeing Plan 2011 – 2015*
- The Regional Growth Plan.

Budget Impact:

Nil.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

The Community Services team will continue to engage with the community to ensure that Council efforts are focused on community and Council Plan priorities.

Discussion/Officers View:

The Community Services team continues to make excellent progress.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

12 Asset management

12.1 Asset Management Report (01/07/0004-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:

This report is a bi-monthly report on Asset Management activities throughout the Shire.

Stock Grid Policy

Stock grid removal/upgrade progress

- New grids have been installed at Annandale Road, Smythes Road and Timberlane Road and Millers Road.
- Negotiations with property owners for the purchase of stock grids are to be finalised and grids purchased by the end of June. These will be for Hanley Lane, Edgar Road and Bullhead Road and the Tallangatta lookout.
- Fencing has been completed on Ranch Road, Callaghan's Creek Road and Mt Alfred Road.
- There are six grids programmed for removal by Council during routine maintenance with a number of others to be removed once fencing is completed. Recognising the financial implications for some property owners a two year timeframe has been given for the fencing and grid removal/upgrades to occur.

Trees

The draft tree management plan will be presented at the August Council workshop.

Works on the Cudgewa tree avenue are programmed for late July pending the availability of the contractor and a VicRoads 'Works within the roadways' permit application.

Cleaning of Council buildings

Cleaning contracts have now been signed for the following buildings:

- Tallangatta Office, Tallangatta Kindergarten and Tallangatta Library with provisions made for the move to the Tallangatta Integrated Community Centre (TICC)
- The Berringa Community Centre

The Corryong Office and Library, Corryong Maternal Child Health, Corryong Visitor Information Centre, Tallangatta Senior Citizens and Tallangatta Visitor Information Centre contracts will be completed in the near future.

Asset renewal and maintenance

Hindleton Road and Campbells Lane bridges constructions are now complete.

Georges Creek Road Stage 2 construction is complete.

New footpaths have been constructed in Tallangatta connecting Towong Street to Lakeside Drive and the rail trail to Akuna Ave. These were constructed as part of a \$30,000 grant funded by the Department Transport, Planning and Local Infrastructure (DTPLI). Footpath extensions have also been constructed on Parish Lane and Jardine Street in Corryong.

The annual reseal contract concludes on 18 September 2015. This will need to go out to tender and a new contract negotiated by November 2015 in preparation for the 2015/16 reseal program from December to March.

Revaluation of Council's drainage assets is complete with the asset register updated to reflect the works which were completed at the Corryong Depot and Bellbridge Foreshore. The unit rates for pits and pipes have been benchmarked against other North East Victorian Councils through a program coordinated by the MAV. Annual condition inspections of sections of the stormwater drainage network will be completed annually to build a baseline of conditions across the network.

Town beautification

Works have commenced on the landscaping of the Tallangatta town entrance. These works will be completed by the end of June.

Internal Improvements

A capital projects database is now in use to document and assess potential projects for inclusion in the capital budget each year. These are prioritised on how they align with Council priorities, asset management strategies and plans and the risk each project presents to Council.

Expressions of interest for preferred contractors were sought in April/May of this year. The final list has been compiled as a result of these submissions and work is ongoing to ensure that each contractor is inducted for OH&S and insurance purposes prior to completing work for Council.

Craig Reid and Ken Whitehead have both taken on additional Technical Services Officer roles until September due to the resignation of the Ranger/Technical Services Officer. Craig will take on the tree inspections and Dartmouth walking track project and Ken is managing the Cudgewa tree avenue and gravel records.

Impact on Council Policy:

Nil.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

Please refer to detail provided in the Finance Report at item 9.1 of this agenda.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

Nil.

Discussion/Officers View:

The Asset Management area is making good progress in relation to the Council Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

13 Land-use planning

No Planning reports for consideration or decision.

14 Environmental sustainability

14.1 Environment Sustainability Report (01/07/0004-DTS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Mr Clement Teng, Environmental Project 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:

This report is a bi-monthly report on Environmental Sustainability activities throughout the Shire.

Corryong Landfill Operations

The construction of the new landfill cell and leachate dam has been completed; the work completed includes the engineering liner installation for the landfill cell and leachate dam, drainage construction and the installation of a solar powered leachate pumping system.

EPA officers have conducted a full site inspection for the old landfill site which is currently under operation and the newly constructed landfill cell and leachate control system. Although recommendations were made for some minor and future improvements; the overall feedback from EPA is very positive. A full inspection report will be provided by the EPA in the near future.

Council's refuse kerbside collection truck will begin using the new landfill cell shortly; the public, however, will keep using the old landfill trench (estimated remaining space for three months) prior to the completion of the security fence around the new site.

Kerbside Waste Collection

Council has commenced providing refuse and recycling kerbside collection service throughout the Shire; new service areas include Eskdale, Mitta Valley, Dartmouth, Tallangatta township, Bethanga and Bellbridge. Unfortunately, Australia Post failed to deliver the relevant information to the residents who are located in the Bethanga and Bellbridge areas. As a result, Council has experienced a large number of complaints and extra services were provided in order to empty the missed bins. A letter was sent out on 4 June to apologise to residents and explained that the information prepared for residents advising of the changes had not been delivered by Australia Post.

Transfer Station upgrades

Corryong Resource Recovery Centre

The final design layout for Corryong Resource Recovery Centre has been completed; the upgrade project will commence with the construction of a new site security fence. A local contractor has been engaged for the new fence construction; during this construction, Council staff will construct a new road network system for the new Resource Recovery Centre using the existing material on site including crushed concrete. A new 1.2 metre high fence will also be built to replace the current farm fence around the leachate dam to ensure site security.

Tallangatta Transfer Station

A long term financial analysis is under development for the Tallangatta Recycling shed extension.

Impact on Council Policy:

Nil.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

Waste expenditure is tracking over budget, details are shown in the following table:

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| | Note | YTD Actual \$ | YTD Budget \$ | YTD Variance \$ | YTD Variance % | 2014/15 Full Year Budget \$ | 2014/15 Full Year Achieved % |
|--|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Program maintenance | | | | | | | |
| Corryong landfill | 1 | 53,628 | 29,400 | (24,228) | 82.41% | 29,400 | 182.41% |
| Tallangatta Transfer Station | | 30,000 | 48,312 | 18,312 | -37.90% | 48,312 | -62.10% |
| Waste Collection | | | | | | | |
| Regional Contract-Waste Collection (Cleanaway) | 2 | 197,965 | 54,600 | (143,365) | 262.57% | 54,600 | 362.57% |
| Regional Contract-Recycle Collection (Cleanaway) | 3 | 124,424 | 54,000 | (70,424) | 130.42% | 54,000 | 230.42% |
| Council Operated-Waste Collection | 4 | 147,094 | 310,500 | 163,406 | -52.63% | 310,500 | -47.37% |
| Waste Disposal | | | | | | | |
| Tallangatta Tfer Station Bulk Bins | | 36,831 | 50,004 | 13,173 | -26.34% | 50,004 | -73.66% |
| Wodonga Tfer Station- Usage Fees | | 6,067 | 4,664 | (1,403) | 30.09% | 4,664 | 130.09% |
| Total Waste expenditure | | 596,011 | 551,480 | (44,531) | 8.07% | 551,480 | 108.07% |

Note 1:

The over spend for Corryong landfill program maintenance is because we had not budgeted for the upgrade project for the Corryong Resource Recovery Centre. The funds from Sustainability Victoria will cover part this overspend, but Council will not receive this grant until next financial year. Extra hours for Corryong outdoor crew have also been put in for EPA's site inspection which was conducted in early May.

Note 2 & 3:

The over spend for waste collection by Cleanaway is because the delayed purchase of Council's new kerbside collection truck.

Note 4:

The under spend for the Council operated waste collection is also because of the delay for Council's new kerbside collection truck.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

Nil.

Discussion/Officers View:

The Environmental sustainability area is making good progress in relation to the Council Plan

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

15 Economic and tourism development

15.1 Economic Development Report (05/01/0001-MED)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Ms Lauren Elvin, Manager Economic Development.

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:

This report is a bi-monthly report on Economic Development activities throughout the Shire.

Corryong Saleyards

The lease with Mr Jeff Cooper ended on 27 June 2015, with control of the facility now resting with Council. A new Operations Manual has been created to guide usage of the facility until the Section 86 Committee can be established. Documentation for the Section 86 Committee is currently being prepared and it is anticipated that advertising for positions will commence in July.

A preliminary fee schedule was included with the Council Budget, however an update to this schedule is now included at item 14.2 of this agenda. Refinements have been made to ensure that the rates charged are appropriate, adequate to cover costs incurred and provide clear direction to both agents and Towong Shire staff to ensure that administration is streamlined. It is anticipated that following the creation of the Section 86 Committee, a further review of fees and charges will be undertaken by the committee.

Water Wheel – Mitta Valley Historical Society

The Mitta Valley Historical Society have contacted Council staff to advise that they have continued discussions with Albury City Council regarding the water wheel and that these discussions have now resulted in an agreement between the parties. The Mitta Valley Historical Society now intends to work with Albury City to transfer the water wheel to private property for restoration. Following restoration the group intends to install the wheel on private property but with public access, on land at the Mitta end of Eskdale. Council staff are providing guidance as to the planning and

permit requirements for this portion of the project and have reiterated the importance of having sufficient funding to undertake the project and its ongoing maintenance.

Tourism promotion

On the weekend 29 - 31 May there were articles focusing on tourism in the Mitta Valley printed in the Sydney Morning Herald and the Weekend Age. The articles highlighted natural attractions, events including the Dartmouth Fishing Classic and businesses including the Mitta Pub, the Witches Garden and the Murray Goulburn store. These two articles were developed early in 2015 with the assistance of Tourism North East (TNE). The strong relationships that TNE have with large publications like the Sydney Morning Herald and The Age provide us with an opportunity to access wide exposure pieces like this to promote our area, at no additional cost to ourselves or operators.

A feature on North East Victoria's caravan parks is currently being developed and will appear in Caravanning Australia in the Spring edition. Given that a large number of caravan tourists already visit our area, this is a great opportunity to access that market and promote the Shire. The feature, which is still being finalised, is likely to include Towong Shire and Alpine Shire, with strong editorial content and is being supported by TNE.

Rural Councils Victoria (RCV)

On 11 June the Manager Economic Development (MED) attended a training session delivered through RCV. The "Economic Development – Nurturing your local community" session focussed on how to encourage economic development, identifying potential projects and assessing Council's role, as well as highlighting engagement techniques. The officer presented a case study as part of the training session on the Tallangatta Tomorrow and Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan projects, highlighting the engagement techniques and processes used, and the outcomes that have been achieved to date in both projects.

Earlier this year, RCV reprinted the Rural Retail Handbook and this document also now features a case study from Towong Shire, the Tallangatta Retailers Christmas Celebration. The Handbook is now available for download at <http://www.ruralcouncilsvictoria.org.au/publications/rural-retail-handbook/>

Corryong Airport Upgrade

The Manager Economic Development recently met with staff from the Department of Water, Environment, Land and Planning (DEWLP) to discuss plans for the Corryong Airport redevelopment. The Manager Economic Development and Director Technical Services will continue to liaise with DEWLP to progress the project, while awaiting the outcome of the Council's application to the Regional Aviation Fund.

Discussions are particularly focussed on ensuring that any development adheres to sustainable design principles, in line with Council Plan item 6.14.

Corryong Visitor Information Centre

In early June 2015 an advertisement appeared in the Border Mail and Corryong Courier seeking applications for a casual relief position at the Corryong Visitor Information Centre. The position is intended to supplement the existing staff at the Centre and to provide additional support at times when staff are on leave or at times of peak demand. The position will also assist in the short term in the delivery of the Regional Digital Project websites, providing support to the Manager Economic Development.

Our Valley, Our Future

In recent months the project has progressed well with individual working group projects commencing, project consultants appointed, an increased level of community engagement and surveys being undertaken with the community and local businesses to guide these working group projects.

The project is continuing to grow with over 50 community participants attending working group meetings in the past two months. Since the end of March, the Our Valley, Our Future facebook site has attracted a number of new "likes", with 156 people now engaged with the page. Twenty two items have been posted to the Our Valley, Our Future facebook since March and page posts have reached approximately 2,200 people. Monthly updates are being inserted into the Bush and Bulldust or mailed to every home, keeping the community informed and driving further engagement.

This month the Our Valley, Our Future Steering Committee put forward a submission to "Legendary" campaign, seeking funding of \$2,500 to host a farmer's market in Eskdale this spring. The Steering Committee are currently working on another application for \$10,000 to produce a DVD promoting the success of the Our Valley, Our Future project and the Mitta Valley, which will be available for use on the Council's tourism sites once completed.

Mobile Telecommunications Blackspot Funding

The recipients of Round One of the Federal Government's Blackspot funding program were announced on 25 June 2015.

Council proposed four sites for towers; Granya, Cudgewa, Bethanga and Dartmouth and all four sites were successful.

The contribution from ratepayer funds for the towers is \$40,000 (\$10,000 per location). The Dartmouth community have also committed to contributing a further \$10,000 for the Dartmouth site.

Whilst we are delighted with the outcome, it is unfortunate that rural councils need to spend rate payers funds in order to achieve funding outcomes for services that metropolitan ratepayers are able to take for granted.

While all four of the towers will have a significant impact for the communities that they service, the Dartmouth and Granya sites will have a particular impact on tourism and safety in those respective communities. In addition, the Granya site will support the wider community along the Murray River Road and it is expected that coverage from this site will have a cross border benefit to areas of both Towong and Greater Hume Shire Councils. We were pleased to receive the support of Greater Hume Shire Council in lobbying for the Granya tower during the submission process to strengthen the case for this site.

Impact on Council Policy:

Nil.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

Economic Development area: Performance against budget

Economic Development expenditure is tracking under budget, with 62% of the full year budget expended as at 25 June 2015. The Economic Development budget is shown in the table following together with key projects that are currently underway.

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| | Note | YTD Actual \$ | YTD Budget \$ | YTD Variance \$ | YTD Variance % | 2014/15 Full Year Budget \$ | 2014/15 Full Year Achieved % |
|---|-------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|--|---|
| Our Valley, Our Future | 1 | 50,558 | 72,417 | (28,441) | -39% | 79,000 | 64% |
| Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan | 2 | 107,620 | 186,500 | (78,880) | -58% | 186,500 | 42% |
| Total Economic Development expenditure | | 431,680 | 729,639 | (279,959) | -38% | 729,639 | 62% |

Notes

1. Our Valley, Our Future has had a timing variation approved, meaning some expenditure will be carried forward into the 2015/16 year. This is due to an extended period without a project manager for the project, during the beginning of the 2014/15 financial year.

2. The Upper Murray 2030 Vision Plan has had a timing variation approved, in order to move consultation periods to a more appropriate time of the year for the community. This has carried one final payment over into 2015/16. A milestone payment is currently being processed.

Risk Assessment:

Nil.

Community Consultation/Responses:

Nil.

Discussion/Officers View:

The Economic Development area is making good progress in relation to the Council Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

15.2 Fees and Charges – Corryong Saleyards (04/11/0045-DCCS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Ms Lauren Elvin, Manager Economic Development.

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:

On 7 April 2015 Council resolved to resume the operational control of the Corryong Saleyards following the expiration of the current 30 year lease on the facility. The lease with Mr Jeff Cooper expired on 27 June 2015 and Council now has an opportunity to set a new fee schedule for the facility.

There has been a significant history relating to fees and charges being levied at the Corryong Saleyards. Over the past 20 years, consecutive Councils have attempted to raise the fees and charges levied within the Corryong Saleyards in order to bring the income and expenditure on the facility into balance.

Due to issues implementing new fees and charges under the conditions of the lease, including protracted discussions between parties, legal representation, mediation, arbitration and eventually expert determination, the fees have remained set at levels which have not allowed Council to realise cost recovery. This has resulted in significant cash losses to Council over an extended period.

Over time, the Yard Fees at the Corryong Saleyards have risen as follows:

| | 1995 | 2002 | 2004 | 2006 |
|-----------|-------------|-------------|-------------|-------------|
| Cattle | \$3.00 | \$4.20 | \$4.50 | \$5.00 |
| Bulls | \$5.00 | \$5.00 | \$5.50 | \$5.50 |
| Calves | \$1.00 | \$1.10 | \$2.00 | \$2.00 |
| Sheep | \$0.28 | \$0.28 | \$0.28 | \$0.30 |
| Agent Fee | \$90.00 | \$90.00 | \$110.00 | \$110.00 |

In 2002, the Yard Fees at the Corryong Saleyards were increased with objection from Mr Cooper. In 2004, the Yard Fees were further increased, again with objections. Council had proposed increasing the Cattle charge to \$6 a head, and reduced this to \$4.50 after negotiations with Mr Cooper. An additional weighing fee of \$2 per head was also to be introduced, but this was not instituted after a period of objection by Mr Cooper and receipt of an Expert Determination that such a fee was not able to be levied under the terms of the lease.

There was a minor increase in fees between 2004 and 2006, with no further increases in fees and charges at the facility since 2006. At the present time, the yard fees are well below industry standards and below the level of cost recovery resulting in an ongoing operating deficit to Council.

Council officers have been working to determine the appropriate level of fees for the facility following the end of the lease with Mr Cooper on 27 June 2015. The 2015/16 Budget adopted by Councillors at the May meeting had a table of fees and charges which were estimates based on the work that had been done to that point.

Further investigation has since been undertaken and the final proposed Fees and Charges are presented below for consideration.

It is anticipated that following the formation of a Section 86 Committee to manage the operations of the Corryong Saleyards these Fees and Charges will be reviewed by the committee and further recommendations made to Council.

The current approved Fees and Charges are due to be implemented starting 1 August 2015. In order to implement the Fees and Charges recommended below, Council is requested to consider and adopt the following Fees and Charges with implementation effective from 8 July 2015.

Proposed Yard Fees for the Corryong Saleyards (Includes GST):

| | APPROVED IN BUDGET 2015/16 | PROPOSED FEES |
|---------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--------------------------|
| Cattle | \$8.80 | \$8.80 |
| Bulls | \$9.35 | \$11.00 |
| Bobby Calves | \$2.20 | \$2.20 |
| Cow and Calf as a unit | \$9.90 | \$9.90 |
| Sheep | \$1.10 | \$1.10 |
| Horses | - | \$11.00 |
| Weighing (casual and sale days) | \$2.75 (Minimum \$13.75) | \$2.75 (minimum \$13.75) |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Scanning (Sale days) | \$2.75 (Minimum \$13.75) | \$2.75 (minimum \$13.75) |
| Transfer / temporary use of yards | Zone 1 \$165 Additional pens \$5.50 | 50% of yard fees – max 4 hours stay Minimum charge \$44.00 for use of loading / unloading area Minimum charge \$22.00 for use of each additional holding pen |
| Unreported stock movement | Additional 25% on top of any yarding and pen fees payable | Additional 25% on top of any yarding and pen fees payable |
| Dead, injured or stock in poor condition | - | Additional 25% on top of any yarding, pen fees and expenses incurred |
| Agent Fees | \$275.00 | \$275.00 |

Impact on Council Policy:

This proposal will result in an amendment to the Corryong Saleyards Fees and Charges which were recently adopted as part of the 2015/16 Budget. This will allow the Fees and Charges to cover the costs associated with operating the facility until such time as the Section 86 Committee is able to review and assess the Fees and Charges and make further recommendation to Council.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

The increase to Fees and Charges is expected to generate increased revenue.

Risk Assessment:

No risk assessment has been carried out.

Community Consultation/Responses:

The draft Budget 2015/16 was presented to the community with no comments received on the proposed fees and charges for the Corryong Saleyards. The variations to the Fees as adopted are minimal, and will be reviewed by the Section 86 Committee once established.

It is likely that agents involved in the saleyards will object to a rise in fees and charges for the facility, as has been demonstrated with each previous attempt to raise the Fees and Charges payable at the site. Agents, transporters and the community did express a strong desire to see Council take on the running of the facility during the consultations undertaken by GHD in preparation of the Corryong Saleyards Futures Study and demonstrated through that study an understanding that Fees and Charges would need to rise. The proposed Fees and Charges are below neighbouring saleyards and have the additional benefit of reducing transport costs to operators, thereby representing good value for money for Agents, farmers and transporters.

Discussion/Officers View:

Council has been seeking to raise the Fees and Charges at the Corryong Saleyards for a number of years in order to ensure cost recovery but due to the terms of the lease was generally unable to make the level of changes required to ensure viability. The proposed Fees and Charges are well positioned to deliver both cost recovery to Council and a competitive rate to Agents and their clients.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT COUNCIL ADOPT THE PROPOSED FEES AND CHARGES FOR THE CORRYONG SALEYARDS, WITH AN EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION DATE OF 8 JULY 2015.

16 Councillor reports

16.1 CFA National Service Medal awards ceremony (Cr Wortmann)

| | |
|-----------------------------------|--|
| Date | 15 May 2015 |
| Details About the Activity | <p>I was invited to this awards ceremony at The Cube in Wodonga. There were 109 CFA Members who were awarded National Service Medals for their efforts at the Victorian fires in the Beechworth area on 2009. I would like thank the recipients for their courage and dedication during this emergency. I would especially like to recognise the CFA members from the Towong Shire, which included nine members from the Eskdale Fire Brigade and included the following:</p> <p>John Arnold, Michael Fitzgerald, John Goode, Walter Larsen, Stephen Lord, Gary Mull, Alistair Parkes, Graeme Reid and Bill Wilson.</p> <p>Also I would like to recognise Wodonga Brigade Member Matthew Johnson who also received a National Service Medal, who along with his family lives in our Shire.</p> |

17 Urgent business

18 Committee minutes

18.1 Upper Murray Business Incorporated [UMBI] (Cr Joyce)

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 12 May 2015 are attached at Appendix 7 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE UNCONFIRMED UMBI MINUTES BE NOTED.

18.2 Municipal Emergency Management Plan [MEMP] (Cr Wortmann)

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 20 May 2015 are attached at Appendix 8 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE UNCONFIRMED MUNICIPAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT PLAN MINUTES BE NOTED.

18.3 North East Waste and Resource Recovery Group [NEWRRG] (Cr Joyce)

The Post Meeting Communique from the Board Meeting held on 1 June 2015 is attached at Appendix 9 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE POST MEETING COMMUNIQUE BE NOTED.

18.4 MAV Rural North East Region meeting notes (Cr Joyce)

The meeting notes from the MAV Rural North East Region meeting held on 4 June 2015 are attached at Appendix 10 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE MAV RURAL NORTH EAST REGION MEETING NOTES BE NOTED.

18.5 Rural Councils Victoria (CEO)

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held 12 June 2015 are attached at Appendix 11 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE UNCONFIRMED RURAL COUNCILS VICTORIA MINUTES BE NOTED.

19 Occupational health and safety

19.1 Occupational Health and Safety Report (06/04/0212-DCCS)

Disclosure of Interests (S.80C):

This report was prepared by Mr Wayne Carter, Occupational Health and Safety 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:

This report is a bi-monthly progress report on Occupational Health and Safety (OHS) activities throughout the organisation. Council, like any employer, has a diverse range of responsibilities with respect to Occupational Health and Safety.

Elements to fulfill Council responsibilities can be categorised as strategic or operational. Strategic activities relate to the framework that guides Council's OHS processes. The operational activities relate more to the individual actions undertaken to identify, analyse or treat risks, for example, obtaining material safety data sheets, providing hearing protection, managing WorkCover claims, etc

Current Progress:

Strategic OHS activity

Internal review of Safety Management System (SMS)

The internal review of Council's OHS system has now been undertaken by the OHS and Risk Officer, OHS Committee and Directors.

The purpose of the internal review is to:

- Measure the effectiveness of Council's Safety Management System
- Identify and prioritise areas for improvement.

A summary of the findings and a proposed action plan are attached at Appendix 12.

Review of Business Continuity Plan (BCP)

A high level review of the current BCP was recently undertaken by JLT, Council’s insurance service provider. This review provided Council with information to determine the next steps required to update the BCP:

- Complete formal Business Impact Analysis (BIA) to establish which of the all services provided are ‘critical’ for continuity of operations, based on a defined criteria (typically the maximum tolerable period of disruption that the community would accept)
- Develop ‘sub plans’ for the critical functions level (not asset or department level) which documents further detail regarding the service itself, required equipment, resources, stakeholders, managers and other information essential for continuation/resumption of minimal levels of the service at least.

The BCP will be updated over the next three months.

External review of Safety Management System (Echelon Audit)

In November/December 2011, Echelon Australia was commissioned by Towong Shire Council to conduct an audit on the Council’s current level of alignment with Australian Standard 4801 (requirements for implementing a Occupational Health and Safety Management System) and the proposed Model Work Health and Safety Act (implemented in most States in 2012).

The Echelon Audit Action Plan is updated quarterly. The status of these actions at 22 May 2015 is as follows:

| | | | | |
|--|----------|----------|----------|----------|
| Risk Rating | High | Medium | Low | Total |
| Total Recommendations – Original risk rating | 11 | 55 | 27 | 93 |
| Recommendations addressed / completed | 11 | 47 | 27 | 85 |
| % complete | 100% | 86% | 100% | 91% |
| Recommendations remaining to be addressed | 0 | 8 | 0 | 8 |

The remaining recommendations to be addressed are:

- Document a review process of procedures – this must include a process for checking health and safety legislation and other relevant information
- Develop and implement a procedure for OHS information distribution and Document Control.
- Review asset disposal process (Hazard identification should encompass all Council sites and the purchasing of goods and asset disposal)

- Develop and implement a procedure for Health Monitoring / Health Surveillance – include review dates, register of checks etc
- Follow up on the issues observed from the site audit:
 - Corryong Depot - Recommended to use Australian Standard storage cabinets for all flammables. eg. aerosols (FlamGas2)
 - Corryong Depot - Review requirement and discuss plan for bunding and/or spill kits with Team Leaders and Director
 - Tallangatta Depot – Provide a safe pedestrian walkway which leads from the entry to the office. This may be marked by 'zebra' lines.

Draft documents have been prepared and are under consideration to address procedural requirements.

Operational OHS activity

WorkCover incidents

WorkCover claims and Return to Work plans are managed internally by the OHS Officer. There are currently no open claims.

Safety Improvement Plans – Corryong and Tallangatta Pools

At the request of Council, Life Saving Victoria (LSV) conducted a Swimming Pool Safety Assessment of the Corryong and Tallangatta Pools in December 2014 (this followed an earlier Assessment by LSV in November 2011). The results of the 2014 assessment have been reviewed by the Director Community and Corporate Services and the OHS Officer and safety improvement plans will be developed and presented to Council for consideration.

Other OHS activity

Heavy Vehicle and Trailer Inspections

A Vehicle, Plant and Trailer Inspection Plan has been implemented at both Depots. This Plan ensures every vehicle, piece of Plant and trailer is inspected at least annually and details of these safety inspections are recorded and filed. In addition, Council has committed to having all Council heavy vehicles and the trailers towed by those heavy vehicles undergo a Victorian Roadworthy inspection to ensure the safety of those vehicles and trailers. All inspections have now been completed.

Communication issues with Outdoor Crews, and Working in Isolation or Remotely

The OHS Committee continues to explore solutions for communication problems in various locations throughout the Shire. The primary focus is the ability to call for assistance in the event of an employee being injured.

A procedure, "Work in Isolation or Remotely" has been released. A trial using a vehicle mounted mobile phone in the new garbage truck commenced in May 2015. These may address some of the safety concerns.

Underground Petroleum Storage Systems (UPSS) monitoring

At present there is one diesel tank at Tallangatta Depot (unused and ready to be decommissioned), and at Corryong Depot there is one diesel tank in use and one petrol tank (unused and ready to be decommissioned). Monitoring of the diesel tank at Corryong commenced in July 2013. A UPSS Management Plan will be implemented for the UPSS's by the end of June 2015 with the view of proposing decommissioning unused tanks progressively over the next 3-5 years.

Traffic Management Plans

The management of traffic is an essential requirement of any work undertaken on roads (whether on the roadway, shoulder or roadside). The Road Safety Act 1986 requires any person conducting works on a road to have in operation a traffic management plan. The traffic management plan provides details of proposals for the management of traffic during the conduct of works. GAME Traffic and Contracting have been engaged since January 2015 to produce traffic management plans for Council and the continued development and implementation of these and other associated paperwork eg Safe Work Method Statements, is ongoing.

Impact on Council Policy:

Nil.

State Government Policy Impacts:

Nil.

Budget Impact:

OHS expenditure is tracking well and is under budget, with 63% of the full year budget expended as at 31 May 2015. This area of Council's operation is forecast to provide full year savings of \$33,000 in the 2014/15 year. Please refer to the table following for further information.

| Description | Note | YTD Actual \$ | YTD Budget \$ | YTD Variance \$ | YTD Variance % | 2014/15 Full Year Budget \$ | 2014/15 Full Year Achieved % |
|--|-------------|------------------------------|------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| OHS / risk management operations | | 82,510 | 90,640 | (8,130) | -9% | 98,880 | 83% |
| OHS claims | 1 | 1,377 | 5,962 | (4,585) | -77% | 6,504 | 21% |
| Risk management audits | 2 | - | 28,000 | (28,000) | -100% | 28,000 | 0% |
| Total OHS / Risk management expenditure | | 83,887 | 124,602 | (40,715) | -33% | 133,384 | 63% |

Notes

1. Costs incurred for OHS claims / workplace injuries less than budgeted due to reduction in number of claims.
2. The budget for 2014/15 included an external OHS review and audits of swimming pools by Life Saving Victoria. The OHS review has been completed internally and an action plan developed. The swimming pool audits cost \$1,200, significantly less than budgeted (\$8,000) and have been coded to swimming pool operating costs.

Risk Assessment:

All recommendations rated 'High' have been addressed. Lower risk recommendations continue to be addressed.

Community Consultation/Responses:

Nil.

Discussion/Officers View:

It is the Officer's view that Council is continuing to make significant progress in addressing Council's OHS responsibilities, including continuing development of the Safety Management System, working with Contractors, improving vehicle and Plant safety, and actioning recommendations from the Echelon Audit Action Plan.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE REPORT BE NOTED.

19.2 OHS Committee (06/04/0212-DCCS)

The unconfirmed minutes of the meeting held on 4 June 2015 are attached at Appendix 13 for information.

RECOMMENDATION:

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

20 Council policies (10/01/0007-CEO)

The Privacy policy was presented on 5 May 2015 for review. The policy is attached at Appendix 14 for adoption. Please note that recommended changes are shown in red.

RECOMMENDATION:

THAT THE THAT THE PRIVACY POLICY AS AMENDED BE ADOPTED:

The following policies are attached at Appendix 15 for review. Councillors are requested to provide feedback on the policy to the Responsible Officer by 4 August 2015.

- Access to Landfills Out of Hours (DTS)
- Pre election Caretaker (DCCS)
- Healthy Eating (DCCS)
- Town Entrance Signage (DTS)

21 Sealing of documents

No documents for sealing.

22 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

No Confidential reports.