



MEDIA RELEASE

June Ordinary Council Meeting wrap

10 June 2016

At its June Ordinary Meeting, Buloke Shire Council adopted its Budget for 2016/17. Council also endorsed its reviews of the Council Plan, Economic Development Strategy and the Strategic Resource Plan.

This year as part of its budget process, Council undertook community consultation not just the exhibition required by legislation. Throughout the year, Council has engaged in conversations with its communities through two Community Forum Summits as well as conducting numerous fire shed meetings in farming areas. During the period of public display two public information sessions were conducted in Sea Lake and Wycheproof. No budget submissions were received.

The budget continues Council's previous focus on financial sustainability and allows our community to address its infrastructure gap in future. The benefits arising from the hard decisions made by Council over the last few years are starting to be borne out.

You can view the Annual Budget 2016/17 on Council's website www.buloke.vic.gov.au or at Council's Wycheproof offices.

Council staff collated and analysed all available information in reviewing the options for the site. In light of the limited available underground airspace, the exposed level of risk and extensive cost involved in going to above ground storage, Council decided to close the Culgoa landfill by 5 December 2016 and rehabilitate the site. Council will continue discussions with the affected community about the implications of the closure. Council will discuss waste management options with the community. A bin bank containing multiple 240 litre recycling bins will be established in the township for an initial period of twelve months with a review to be undertaken in December 2017.

Council recommended no changes be made to the Council Plan 2015-2019. A review of the previous Council Plan took place in February of this year.

Council noted the progress being made against key areas of the Economic Development Strategy 2014-2024. An internal annual review of the Strategy has taken place exploring the key areas of; Retail and Commerce, Agriculture, Services and Mining and Alternative Energy. The Strategy has seen excellent results in the establishment of a range of intensive animal husbandry business over the past twelve months with many more on the horizon. Council will continue to focus on this area and undertake a significant review of the strategy in the latter half of 2017.

Finally, Council adopted the 2016-20 Strategic Resource Plan. The Plan is a four year plan which supports the actions of the Council Plan and helps to determine the Annual Budget. The Plan sets out Council's financial strategies and assumptions and is reviewed on an annual basis.

Council's next Ordinary Meeting will be on Wednesday, 13 July in the Wycheproof Supper Room.

End release

For further information contact Media and Communications Officer, Travis Fitzgibbon on 1300 520 520.