



MEDIA RELEASE

Council Meets with Community on Budget

22 April 2016

Buloke Shire Council staged its latest Community Forum Summit in Wycheproof on Tuesday 19 April. The main Item for discussion was the draft Council budget for 2016/17. A strong attendance of Forum members was again seen with plenty of strong and informed discussion had.

After an informal start to the evening giving everyone a chance to mingle with Councillors, Council officers and fellow Forum members, the Mayor Cr Reid Mather officially opened proceedings.

Manager Finance, Mr Bill Hutcheson, then outlined the draft budget as very much a business as usual budget. No proposed new positions, no reduction in services and no new services as Council continues to consolidate from the large changes and reduced expenditure of recent years.

Director Works and Technical Services, Mr Anthony Judd then laid out the Capital Works program for the next budget period. This had a larger than usual infrastructure component resulting from accessing the larger than normal grants available. The program picked up on the priorities from the previous Summit of roads, sport and recreation and streetscapes with a proposed value of \$7.990 million.

Council has applied for a rate variation at 3.05 %. This figure was the same as brought to our previous Community Forum Summit back in October 2015.

There was plenty of great discussion when the floor was opened which centred around; funding school crossing supervisors, maximisation of available drought funding, pulling in one direction as communities within a Shire, rationalisation of community facilities and State Government contributions. Feedback supported continuing the summits in the years ahead.

“This is the first time we as a Council have gone to our community during the drafting process of the budget. We had genuinely engaging discussions and received terrific feedback. I have never seen our community so politically aware and so well versed on procedures. A great night”, said Mayor, Cr Reid Mather.

Buloke Shire Council’s Draft Budget will be out for submissions and comments in early May.



End release

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