VISION

Whether you live here or visit, you will see how much we value our natural beauty, how connected our communities are, and how balanced growth makes this the best place in the world.

COUNCILLOR COMMITMENT

We’ll be truthful, represent the community’s needs, be positive and responsive and always strive to do better.
NOTES FOR QUESTIONS AND SUBMISSIONS FROM THE PUBLIC

(In accordance with the 2015 Council Meeting Guidelines – Public Participation)

Submissions in relation to a specific item on the agenda for consideration will be invited to come forward by the Chair. Submissions must be made in a way that is respectful of Councillors and staff. You should make sure that you are present at the meeting when the item you wish to speak about is considered, as there will be no opportunity for you to speak after the Chair has invited speakers and councillors have begun to consider the item.
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1. COMMITTEE MEETING OPENED

2. INTRODUCTION OF MEMBERS PRESENT

3. APOLOGIES AND LEAVE OF ABSENCE

4. DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST
   
   In accordance with section 79 of the Local Government Act 1989.
5. COUNCIL ACTION PLAN AND BUDGET

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER Director Corporate Services

SUMMARY

At its meeting held on 24 April 2018, Council resolved that the proposed Council Action Plan 2018-19, the proposed Budget 2018-19, the Capital Expenditure Program 2018-19 to 2027-28 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2027-28 presented to that meeting be received and advertised on 27 April 2018 for public comment.

The documents outline the strategic direction and key activities that will be undertaken by Council and how the activities will be funded.

The documents were made available for inspection and written submissions were sought from interested parties by the lodgement time of 5.00pm on Thursday 24 May 2018.

There have been 20 submissions received and the purpose of this committee meeting is to consider submissions received on these documents.

RECOMMENDATION

That

1. Having considered the submissions received, the Committee’s response to each submission is as per attachment 1.


DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

The author of this report does not have a conflict of interest.

PROPOSAL

That the submissions made on the proposed Council Action Plan 2018-19, the proposed Budget 2018-19, the Capital Expenditure Program 2018-19 to 2027-28 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2027-28 inform the development of these documents.
BACKGROUND

Yarra Ranges Council has listened to the many voices of the community through an extensive engagement process and has used that information to develop the Council Plan 2017-21 that outline the long term direction for the municipality. This information has also been used to update the proposed Council Action Plan 2018-19, the proposed Budget 2018-19, the Capital Expenditure Program 2018-19 to 2027-28 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2027-28.

In accordance with Section 223 of the Local Government Act 1989, Council welcomed the communities’ views on these documents that outline the key activities that will be undertaken by Council and how the activities will be funded.

STRATEGIC LINKS

These documents guide Council’s activities and articulate the commitments for the coming years.

CONSULTATION

The 28 day community consultation period for these documents commenced on the 27 April 2018 and concluded at 5pm on 24 May 2018. The documents were made available online and at Council’s Community links.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Consideration of these submissions informs the development of the proposed Council Action Plan 2018-19, the proposed Budget 2018-19, the Capital Expenditure Program 2018-19 to 2027-28 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2027-28. These documents commit key activities that will be undertaken by Council and how the activities will be funded.

KEY ISSUES

There are no foreseeable key issues.

Environmental Impacts

There are no foreseeable environmental impacts.

Social Impacts

There are no foreseeable social impacts.

Economic Impacts

There are no foreseeable economic impacts.
Risk Assessment

There are no foreseeable risks identified.

CONCLUSION

That the 20 submissions received be considered and inform the development of the proposed Council Action Plan 2018-19, the proposed Budget 2018-19, the Capital Expenditure Program 2018-19 to 2027-28 and the Long Term Financial Plan 2018-19 to 2027-28.

ATTACHMENTS

1  2018-19 Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions
## Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

<table>
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<tr>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Request for free tip vouchers</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for your submission in relation to issuing of tip vouchers. Tip passes were phased out many years ago and replaced with the annual hard waste, bundled branches and metals collection early in the year and a bundled branches collection prior to the fire danger period. These are provided kerbside. This was done as many residents were not in a position to utilise tip passes as they did not have suitable vehicles or the physical ability to take material to a disposal site. The annual kerbside collection services now provide an equitable service for all residential properties. Previous investigations for reintroducing tip passes have identified that passes would be far more expensive than the current kerbside service. The current cost of all residents taking a single trailer load of waste to a transfer station is approximately $60 per property more expensive than the current kerbside service. The tip pass would only also allow for approximately one cubic metre of waste to be disposed of compared to three cubic metres collected from the kerbside service. The introduction of a tip pass would see this cost added to the Waste Charge and would provide a reduced level of service.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2.</td>
<td>Ryrie</td>
<td>Request for sealing of Skyline Road</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your request in regards to the sealing of Skyline Road. Council has significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality. Unfortunately, Council does not have the capacity to meet the demand for these improvements or fully fund these works from rates that are collected. Any improvements to the road would be carried out by Council preparing a</td>
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**ATTACHMENT 1.** 2018-19 Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions
### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<tr>
<td>3.</td>
<td>O’Shannassy</td>
<td>Request for sealing of Cavanagh Road</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns related to Cavanagh Road in Millgrove outside the Primary School which have been noted. Potholes in unsealed roads are addressed by a regular grading program, up to four times per year that maintains the formation of the road. Should potholes form within these timeframes, we encourage residents to contact Council to have the issues addressed. Council’s new unsealed contract partner will be advised of the need for a higher level of service in the area. For Cavanagh Road to be sealed, it would need to be undertaken as part of a Special Charge Scheme, whereby the landowners of properties sharing a boundary with the road, or gaining primary access via the road, contribute towards the cost of the works, as these properties that derive a benefit from the improvements. Unfortunately, Council does not have the capacity to meet the demand for these improvements or fully fund these works from rates that are collected, with significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality.</td>
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</table>

Special Charge Scheme whereby the landowners of properties sharing a boundary with the road, or gaining primary access via the road, are liable for the cost of the works. As these properties are deemed to derive a benefit from the improvements, they would be included in the Special Charge Scheme. In order to initiate a Special Charge Scheme a petition signed by a significant number of property owners from the unsealed section of Skyline Road, Yarra Glen would need to be forwarded to Council indicating support for participating in the scheme. Information on how to submit a petition to Council is available on Council’s website. A simultaneous approach by landowners on the Nillumbik Shire Council side of the road is suggested.
### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>In order to initiate a Special Charge Scheme a petition signed by a significant number of property owners from the unsealed section would need to be forwarded to Council indicating support for participating in the scheme. Information on how to submit a petition to Council is available on Council’s website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4.</td>
<td>Lyster</td>
<td>Infrastructure needs for Menzies Creek</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to funding allocation on Menzies Creek.</td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Grading of unsealed roads is carried out according to a set program three times per year. Council has an annual footpath program for new paths for the municipality. Funding priorities are determined on path user demand and likely usage. Council’s Traffic and Transport Coordinator will be contacting you shortly to request more specific details of your infrastructure needs.</td>
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<tr>
<td>5.</td>
<td>Lyster</td>
<td>Request to seal Lawrence Road, car parking infrastructure needs for The Patch and additional support for elderly residents</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for making us aware of the issues raised in your submission. Council engineers will assess the location to establish measures to improve safety for pedestrians, and improve manoeuvrability for vehicles. Your concerns regarding illegal parking will be raised with our Local Laws department for inspection, patrols and enforcement during peak times. Council has significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality. The situation in Lawrence Court is often experienced with unsealed roads. Based on your submission, we will inspect the site and complete any programmed works for managing unsealed road surfaces and drainage by 30 June 2018.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
The provision of support for the aging population is funded by Federal Government who have recently announced further investment to enable older people to remain living independently. Council notes your views about the need for more accommodation for families with young children in Monbulk.

6. Lyster  
Request for infrastructure and maintenance works  
No  
Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to the current maintenance program in the Belgrave area.
## Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>for Belgrave</td>
<td></td>
<td>With respect to roads, drainage and maintenance works in the main street in Belgrave, your concerns have been noted and will be inspected with works to be undertaken. Station Street is programmed for a re-seal in October 2018 and drainage issues will be addressed at this time. VicRoads are the responsible owner of Burwood Highway, not Council. We will refer your concerns directly to VicRoads. Council has a regular street sweeping program that covers the Belgrave area. The small section of Glenfern Road was recently resurfaced due to this being the location of a significant traffic accident. Funding was provided by the federal government’s Road Safety Blackspot program for these works that included the installation of new guard-rail to improve safety. A traffic, parking and pedestrian study of the Belgrave Township is currently underway. The recommendations of this will provide recommendations to improve traffic flow, parking management and pedestrian connections for residents, traders, shoppers and visitors to Belgrave. Your concerns will be considered as part of this study. If you have any further queries in regards to this study, please contact Council’s Coordinator Traffic and Transport. Council maintain the roundabout at the intersection of Burwood Highway and Monbulk Road on behalf of VicRoads. It is very small and manages a large volume of traffic including large articulated vehicles. The roundabout is also the home of a flagpole that was advocated for by the Belgrave business community. Given the intensity of use in relation to large vehicles having to ride over the edges, difficulty with varying sight lines for a variety of drivers with different approach angles and access for the flagpole, the roundabout has not been planted out. Three different types of hard landscape elements have been installed to provide some variation instead of just a concrete circle.</td>
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### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>7.</td>
<td>Chandler</td>
<td>Request for better playing parks for Monbulk</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for your submission in relation to better playing parks in the Monbulk area. Council are currently developing its Playspace Strategy which identifies the Monbulk Recreation Reserve to be upgraded from a local play space to a district play space in the medium term (within 5-10 years). The Playspace Strategy is currently in draft stage and will be available for community comment from mid June.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8.</td>
<td>Streeton</td>
<td>Allocation of funding for road works in the capital budget</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to funding allocation on infrastructure assets. The strategic direction for funding of the Capital Expenditure Program is detailed in Section 10 of the 2018-19 Yarra Ranges Council Draft Budget. A key objective of this strategic approach is to maintain or renew Council’s existing assets at desired condition levels. If sufficient funds are not allocated to asset renewal then there would be a significant risk of Council’s Road network becoming deteriorated and dangerous. This significantly influences the funding allocation to the renewal of existing assets versus the creation of new assets, as Council has an obligation to ensure that existing assets are maintained to safely meet community needs. The funding for roads is in line with the total capital allocations with 19% of the 2018-19 Capital Expenditure Program funding new assets. It should also be noted, that Council receives additional grant funding for roads under the Federal Government’s Roads to Recovery Program, therefore not all road funding comes from Council rates. The roads renewal program includes activities and works such including: • resheeting unsealed roads to maintain and improve the driving surface • rescaling sealed roads to protect the road pavement underneath, maintain and improve the driving surface and road safety • rehabilitation of roads – poor structural integrity of some roads require the reconstruction of the whole road pavement. With respect to community investment in roads, in accordance with the</td>
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SPECIAL COMMITTEE AGENDA – 5 JUNE 2018
### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>9.</td>
<td>Billanook</td>
<td>Request for a permanent solution for roads that have been graded</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to grading and sealing roads.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Council has significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality. Unfortunately, Council does not have the capacity to meet the demand for these improvements or fully fund these works from rates that are collected. Any improvements to the road would be carried out by Council preparing a Special Charge Scheme whereby the landowners of properties sharing a boundary with the road, or gaining primary access via the road, are liable for the cost of the works. As these properties are deemed to derive a benefit from the improvements, they would be included in the Special Charge Scheme. In order to initiate a Special Charge Scheme a petition signed by a significant number of property owners from the unsealed section of the road would need to be forwarded to Council indicating support for participating in the scheme. Information on how to submit a petition to Council is available on Council’s website.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10.</td>
<td>Billanook</td>
<td>Request for pavement repair for</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to the repair of pavement on Bailey Road.</td>
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## Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Bailey Road, Mt Evelyn</td>
<td></td>
<td>As the damage was caused by installation of the National Broadband Network, the relevant authority has been directed to repair the damage caused.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11.</td>
<td>Streeton / Walling</td>
<td>Funding allocation for Montrose</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to funding allocation for Montrose.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>As a Council, we support over 55 different locations and townships, all with their own pressures for Capital Expenditure projects. This forces prioritisation both from a financial and resource capacity basis.</td>
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<td>The 2018-19 Draft 10 Year Capital Expenditure Program has two major projects identified for Montrose both on Shefield Road. A footpath and major road improvement project totalling over $1.4 million.</td>
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<td>Additional to this, in funding pools that are broken down to a detailed level that is not published, is a suite of projects covering: reserves; trails and footpath; and, road rehabilitation, as well as minor building improvements.</td>
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<td>In recent years, Montrose has benefitted significantly from Council investment in projects including the Montrose Town Centre redevelopment ($1.7 million). There have also been smaller projects such as: the Montrose Netball Court Resurfacing and Lighting; Shefield Road Footpath upgrade; Ken Leversha Bushland Reserve asset upgrade and improvements to the Montrose Tennis Club.</td>
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<td>The Council, via Cr Cox has been working with the Montrose Township Group to seek changes to the proposed design for the changes to the Montrose Roundabout to ensure that the local amenity of Montrose is retained. Recent discussions have occurred with VicRoads and local state member, James Merlino MP requesting that plans be changed to retain roadside vegetation along Canterbury Road and Swansea Road through Montrose. Discussions have also occurred with traders to ensure that local</td>
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<td>12.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Request for more off lead parks and relaxing of burning off laws</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>access to the shops in Mount Dandenong Tourist Road is functional for community needs. Thank you for your submission in regards to off lead dog parks and burning off laws. The opportunity for new or revised off lead dog areas is being reviewed as part of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy Review which looks at all the recreation and open space areas within the municipality and explores priorities in the future. We have had a number of enquires across the network for fully fenced dog off lead parks which we have not advocated. Yarra Ranges offers many great dog off lead areas that aren't fully fenced and we believe these parks work quite well. The Kimberley Reserve dog agility park is an example of this; there are intentionally no gates in the entry and exit points as pet owners using this park are required to supervise and have voice control over their dog at all times in keeping with responsible ownership of pets in public places. The design was aimed at providing a range of activities throughout the park for a broad range of animals including small dogs. Often fully fenced dog parks are used by people who cannot control their dog or are unwilling to control their dog which contradicts our local laws around responsible pet ownership. Small dog vs large dog usage of these parks is an ongoing issue as often small dog owners are reluctant to use these sites due to uncontrolled larger dogs. There will be extensive consultation and engagement throughout the Recreation and Open Space Strategy review process which gives the opportunity for community feedback to form part of the review. It is anticipated that a draft version of the Recreation and Open Space Strategy...</td>
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### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Request to restore VicRoads services at Council’s Community Links</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for your submission in relation to restoration of VicRoads services at Council’s Community Links. It remains Council’s position that the provision and appropriate funding of VicRoads services is the responsibility of VicRoads. VicRoads presented an altered service agreement to Council, withdrawing a number of services and reducing funding to Council, prompting the decision to cease providing VicRoads agency services. National Driver Work Diaries, or log books, are now administered by the National Heavy Vehicle Regulator (NHVR), for which VicRoads now acts as an agent. The NHVR are soon to introduce Electronic Work Diaries. An Electronic Work Diary is an electronic device or system approved by the NHVR, to monitor and record the work and rest times of a driver and is a voluntary alternative to the written work diary. Once operational this will remove the requirement to purchase written work diaries from VicRoads service centres. Further information is available from:</td>
</tr>
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</table>

A council officer will be in contact with you in the coming months as part of the consultation process.

Please follow the link below for information on the current locations where dogs can be exercised off-leash:
https://www.yarraranges.vic.gov.au/Property/Pets/Exercising-your-dog

Your feedback regarding the draft Open Air Burning Local Law 2018 will be noted as part of the consultation process. A review of submissions will be heard at a Special Committee of Council in June, with the final Local Law being adopted in July.
Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>Thank you for your submission in regards to carried forward capital works.</td>
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<td>The published 2017-18 Capital Expenditure Program was $57.5 million. It has increased due to external funds received (from sources such as State and Federal Government grants). The current Capital Expenditure Program for 2017-18 is $61.4 million.</td>
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<td>The 2018-19 Capital Expenditure Program is $64.3 million. Of this, $46.2 million relates to new Capital Works and $18.1 million relates to works carried forward from 2017-18. A list of the full capital expenditure program, including new works and works carried forward, is available on the Council website (Proposed 2018-19 Budget).</td>
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<td>The percentage of the current 2017-18 program that has been rolled into 2018-19 is 28 per cent.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Allocation of the waste management charge</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for your submission in relation to the waste disposal charges.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
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<td></td>
<td>Council’s waste services are provided on a full cost recovery basis.</td>
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<td>The systems in place in councils across Victoria and further around Australia do not use technology that can identify accurately how often each bin is placed out or how much waste is being placed out per property to enable individual charging.</td>
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<td>This has been reviewed over the years, however the accuracy of systems trialled are not enough to confidently charge residents. We will continue to investigate technologies to assist in improving these services.</td>
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<td>16.</td>
<td>Ryrie</td>
<td>Request for widening and repair of Smith Street, Healesville</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Council does provide a smaller 80 litre garbage bin which we encourage residents to use that do not produce much waste, which has a reduced rate for this service. Council’s optional organics bin is for garden refuse only, and Council offers a smaller 120 litre size at a reduced rate. Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to the changing conditions in Smith Street. Your concern has been noted. Council has significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality. Unfortunately, Council does not have the capacity to meet the demand for these improvements or fully fund these works from rates that are collected. Any improvements to the road would be carried out by Council preparing a Special Charge Scheme whereby the landowners of properties sharing a boundary with the road, or gaining primary access via the road, are liable for the cost of the works. As these properties are deemed to derive a benefit from the improvements, they would be included in the Special Charge Scheme. In order to initiate a Special Charge Scheme a petition signed by a significant number of property owners from Smith Street, Healesville would need to be forwarded to Council indicating support for participating in the scheme. Information on how to submit a petition to Council is available on Council’s website. In response to previous landowner requests for improvements to the road, landowners were surveyed in 2008 to determine support for a landowner funded Special Charge Scheme to improve the road. The survey returned insufficient landowner support to proceed with a road improvement scheme.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17.</td>
<td>All</td>
<td>Request for planting food trees on nature</td>
<td>Yes</td>
<td>Thank you for your submission in relation to planting food trees on nature strips and park edges.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<td>Council advocates strongly for healthy, connected and sustainable community development in a range of ways:</td>
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<td>• Council empowers the community to identify issues of concern and take action on them, with Council’s support, through the community planning process</td>
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<td>• Council’s grant program offers support for these types of community led initiatives that support nutritious food growing, preparation and education and empowerment on food and nutrition</td>
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<td>• Council’s Sustainability team are in contact with a number of community garden groups across the municipality, and actively supports a network of educators (in schools and other settings) to promote edible gardening, composting and education for sustainability through workshops, conferences, e-newsletters and professional development activities.</td>
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<td>The Connect Lilydale Community Planning Process, which you are an active participant in, is the best platform to further your vision for a sustainable future. Bringing the community on board to understand the issues and to initiate action from the grassroots will enable a much more meaningful partnership and outcome for all concerned.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>18.</td>
<td>Lyster</td>
<td>Request for additional work on road traffic management on McNicol Road, TECOMA</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Thank you for raising your traffic concerns in regarding McNicol Road TECOMA which have been noted.</td>
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<td>Council has commissioned a Road Safety Audit by specialist consultants to provide recommendations of road safety improvements. This has been the result of correspondence with residents in the location, including a number of crashes we have become aware of on McNicol Road TECOMA.</td>
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<td>The results of the Road Safety Audit are expected to be finalised in the coming weeks, whereby Council intends to install road safety improvements</td>
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# Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Subm’n #</th>
<th>Ward</th>
<th>Summary</th>
<th>Speak to Submission</th>
<th>Officer Recommendation / Response</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| 19.      | All  | Clarification on the funding allocation of preventing family violence | Yes | Thank you for raising your concerns in regards to funding allocation towards the prevention of family violence. Council makes a number of targeted expenditures within its operational budgets to the Prevention of Violence Against Women (PVAW). These include:  
- a 2018 grant funded project to prevent family violence in the Upper Yarra which will develop youth ambassadors to promote gender equity to PVAW  
- a Gender Equity Project Officer – to drive change in our organisation and out into the community. Whilst Council doesn’t have direct service delivery it is mandated to tackle prevention of family violence  
- a partnership program that addresses family violence experienced by new mothers and support families at very vulnerable times in their lives  
- membership of the regional strategy Together for Equality and Respect with Council officers actively contributing to this regional effort  
- Council officers trained in preventing violence by tackling the root causes and how to refer to Eastern Domestic Violence Service (EDVOS) if people disclose they are experiencing family violence  
- Council officer co-developed a gender audit for sports clubs to help increase female participation and create more equality in sports organisations. The next financial year will be to support clubs in the implementation as evidence based approach to preventing violence against women.  
Council is also seeking funding through external grants to contribute to the progress of this work. |
## Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>Over the last two years a range of training has been provided to operational staff within Community Support Services to enable the earlier identity of potential or actual family violence. Strong links and referral pathways will continue to be developed with specialist services (e.g. Eastern Community Legal Centre) to enable access to appropriate support. The Maternal and Child Health Service have also recently been funded by the State Government to increase engagement with families where family violence is, or may be, occurring. Community Support Services are working with a range of partners to support the regional specialist family service EDVOS to implement a specific project in one area of the Yarra Ranges with the highest rates of family violence. This project is focussed on prevention and early intervention. The funding for these projects or activities either sits with external agencies or is included in other team budget lines such as training, hence, it does not feature as a separate budget line item.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| 20.      | Streeton| Request for additional details on the calculation of recycling charge, additional footpath and road sealing | Yes                 | Thank you for your submission in regards to the calculation of the recycling charge, additional footpath and road sealing works. In accordance with Council’s Waste Services Policy a Waste Service Charge is applied to all residential properties with a habitable dwelling to which waste collection services are provided or made available to. The Waste Service Charge incorporates a range of waste services that are provided across the municipality. These services include:  
- Weekly Kerbside Garbage Collection, 80 or 120 litre bin;  
- Fortnightly Kerbside Recycling Collection, 240 litre bin;  
- Annual Kerbside Hard Waste Collection; and;  
- Twice Yearly Kerbside Bundled Branches Collection.                                                                 |

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### Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>The charge also includes servicing of street and park litter bins that are provided throughout townships, streets and reserves together with educational material and administration services associated with waste services. Council actively encourages all residents to recycle. It is considered that our recycling service remains cost effective compared to disposing material at landfill. Council has developed its footpath improvement program based upon improving connections to schools, townships and other local destinations throughout the municipality. The Council annually reviews proposed footpath improvement projects to ensure that current priorities are reflective of community needs. There is not the ability to include additional footpaths in the 2018-19 Capital Expenditure Program however the request for extending the footpath along One Tree Hill Road will be referred to the next review of Council’s footpath improvement program during the budget process for the 2019-20 budget year. Council has significant demands for infrastructure improvements, with approximately 760 kilometres of unmade roads, limited footpath networks and a high demand for drainage improvements throughout the municipality. The situation in Seabreeze Avenue is often experienced with unsealed roads. With respect to sealing the road surface, unfortunately, Council does not have the capacity to meet the demand for these improvements or fully fund these works from rates that are collected. Any improvements to the road would be carried out by Council preparing a Special Charge Scheme whereby the landowners of properties sharing a boundary with the road, or gaining primary access via the road, are liable for the cost of the works. As these properties are deemed to derive a benefit from the improvements, they would be included in the Special Charge Scheme. In order to initiate a Special Charge Scheme, a petition signed by a</td>
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## Council Action Plan and Budget Submissions – 27 April to 24 May 2018

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<td>significant number of property owners from Seabreeze Avenue would need to be forwarded to Council indicating support for participating in the scheme. Information on how to submit a petition to Council is available on Council’s website.</td>
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</table>
6. PROPOSED SALE 1632 BURWOOD HWY, BELGRAVE

RESPONSIBLE OFFICER  Director Environment & Engineering

SUMMARY

On 10 March, 2018, Council gave Public Notice of its intention to sell its property at 1632 Burwood Hwy, Belgrave. The Public Notice, which was advertised in local newspapers and on Council’s website, invited written public submissions on the matter, and also invited submitters to indicate whether they wish to address Council in support of their submission.

By the closing of the submission period on 13 April, Council had received nine (9) written submissions, with four (4) requesting in their submission to address Council in support of their submission. One further submission was received over a week after the submission closing date, which has been included for consideration but marked as a late submission.

The purpose of this s223 Committee meeting is to hear public submissions regarding the proposal to sell the property from those who indicated on their written public submission that they wish to do so. Those submitters have been invited to present at this committee meeting.

Submitters will be allowed five minutes to present their submission to the committee, in line with Council’s Meeting Procedures Local Law which dictates procedures for Ordinary Council Meetings.

As this Committee has no decision making power, a report including a summary of hearings, will be presented to a Council meeting for a Council consideration and decision on the matter.

RECOMMENDATION

That the Committee, having heard submitters present in support of their public submissions, provide a report including a summary of hearings, to an Ordinary meeting of Council for Council’s consideration and decision on whether or not the property at 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave shall be sold.

DISCLOSURE OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

There are no conflicts of interest to declare in relation to this report.
PROPOSAL

It is proposed that:

- The Committee hear the submissions of those public submitters who indicated on their submission that they wish to address the Council, or a Committee formed by Council, in support of their submissions.

- Following the submission hearing, a report, which includes a summary of the hearings, is presented to an Ordinary Council meeting for Council’s consideration and decision as to whether or not the property should be sold.

BACKGROUND

At its meeting of 12 September 2017, Council resolved to give Public Notice pursuant to Sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act) of its intent to sell its property at 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave.

The property consists of a modest weatherboard building originally constructed around 1925, with the existing brick frontage a later addition. The building was originally used as the Belgrave Grammar School before being re-located to its current site some time later. While the site was nominated for consideration in the Council’s Heritage Study 2000, it was assessed as not holding sufficient heritage significance to be included in the full study. Consequently the building is not protected by a heritage overlay.

Located in the heart of the Belgrave commercial centre and with direct Burwood Highway frontage, the property is zoned Commercial 1 Zone (C1Z). Any future development of the site would be subject to the planning guidelines and controls of the applicable Design and Development Overlay (DDO15 – Belgrave Town Centre). Until early May 2018, the property was tenanted by Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service (DRERS), however has become vacant upon the DRERS service relocating their operation into the new Belgrave Community Hub building which opened earlier this year.

On Tuesday 10 March Council gave Public Notice of its intention to sell the property in accordance with Sections 189 and Section 223 of the Act. Public Notice of Council’s intent to sell was given on Tuesday 10 March, 2018.

By the conclusion of the 28 day Public Notice period, Council had received nine (9) written public submissions, with eight (8) of those objecting to, and one supporting Council’s proposal to sell the property. A further submission (objecting) was received more than a week after the submissions closing date. That submission has been included for Council’s review and consideration and marked ‘Late Submission’.

In order to hear those submitters who indicated in their submission that they wished to speak in support of their submission, Council resolved to:

- Revise the terms of reference for the Special Committee already established under s86 of the Act (on 24 April 2018) for the purpose of hearing public submissions relating to the Council Budget and Council Plan, to also include the hearing of public submissions relating to the proposed sale of 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave.
• Utilise the Special Committee of Council meeting already set by Council for 6:30pm on 5 June 2018, at the Council Offices, Lilydale, to hear those submitters to who indicated in their submissions that they wish to address Council in support of their submission.

Copies of all submissions received have been distributed to Committee members for their review and consideration, and have been made available to Councillors not present at the Committee meeting.

Submitters will be allowed five minutes to present their submission to the committee, in line with Council’s Meeting Procedures Local Law which prescribes Ordinary Council Meeting procedures.

As this Committee has no decision making power, a report including a summary of hearings, will be presented to a Council meeting where a Council decision on the matter will be made.

STRATEGIC LINKS

Council’s proposal to sell property is being undertaken pursuant to the provisions of sections 189 and 223 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), and in line with Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale, Exchange & Transfer of Land, and its Sale of Land Policy.

This Committee was formed under the provisions of section 86 of the Act to hear public submissions pursuant to section 223 of the Act

CONSULTATION

On Tuesday 10 March Council gave Public Notice of its intention to sell the property in accordance with Sections 189 and Section 223 of the Act.

The Public Notice was advertised in Leader and Mail public newspapers and on Council’s website, and a copy of the Public Notice was displayed on a sign at the front of the property throughout the Public Notice period. Nearby property owners, the Belgrave Traders Association and various local community organisations were sent direct mail notification of the Public Notice.

**Snap-shot of submissions received**

By the end of the public submission period on 13 April:

• 9 written public submissions were received.

• Of those, 1 supports the proposal while 8 object to the proposal.

• 4 submitters requested to speak in support of their submission, all of whom have been invited to present at this committee meeting.
• One late submission (objection) was received more than a week after the submission closing date. That submission has been included for consideration with other submissions, and marked ‘Late Submission’.

Committee members have been provided full copies of all written public submissions received. De-identified copies of the submissions are included as attachments to this report.

**Themes arising from Public Submissions**

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<th>Theme</th>
<th>Officer Response</th>
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<td>The building has heritage value, originally built in the mid-1920’s as a School building at the Belgrave Grammar School (located in Tecoma), and later relocated to the current site. There is concern that Council selling the property, particularly considering the site’s commercial zoning, would likely cause the building to be demolished – Potentially another locally historic building lost like the old RSL and Girl Guide buildings before it. It is felt by some that the Heritage Study 2000, which did not include the building for heritage recognition or protection, is flawed and/or incomplete.</td>
<td>Officers accept and understand the building’s age and various uses over time, both at its original location and since moved to its current location. While the site was nominated for consideration in the Heritage Study 2000, it was considered insufficiently significant to be included in the full study. The property was later mentioned in the Belgrave Commercial Precinct Report delivered by Lovell-Chen in 2009, as a contributory building to the Belgrave streetscape, and described as a ‘structure which has been altered and extended over the past seventy years and incorporates earlier timber fabric as well as later brick and render elements’, however the report doesn’t attribute any heritage significance to the structure. There has therefore been no plan or cause to investigate the property further. If the property were sold, there is no certainty that a new owner would demolish the existing building with renovation being a distinct option, as has occurred upon the sale of the former Japara House site in Montrose. While full redevelopment of the site is a possibility, any applications for future development would be subject to usual planning controls, with surrounding residents notified.</td>
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<td>Some submitters expressed strong personal sentiment toward the building due to long-term family connection with the township, with one also explaining that family members would likely have been visitors to the building during its former uses as a school and ante-natal clinic. It is felt by some that Council’s proposal to</td>
<td>Officers acknowledge that the building has served a number of purposes over the years, and that during that time, many local residents would have at some time visited the site to utilise the services offered. While the building has indeed served the community well over many years, its size, configuration and condition mean that it is</td>
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<td>sell overlooks the important role this building played in the development of education and maternal and children's welfare during Belgrave's formative years.</td>
<td>no longer ideally suited for the delivery of such services into the future. Council has invested significantly into a new, larger, multi-use facility only a short distance from the property where a number of various services can be delivered from a more modern, comfortable and convenient facility.</td>
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<td>One submitter requested that Council consider relocating the building to an alternative Council owned site (Belgrave or Belgrave Heights) prior to the land being sold.</td>
<td>While potentially possible, subject to the building's condition, officers have not fully investigated the feasibility of relocating the building as part of this process. This is primarily due to the fact that re-location and retention of the building would be contrary to Council’s recent strategic approach to centralise multiple services into new, larger, multi-function facilities (such as the new Belgrave Hub), and also due to Council not having identified the building as being required as an additional satellite facility in the region.</td>
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<td>Several submitters requested that the property not be sold, but instead be used to increase parking capacity for the township, particularly considering this issue is currently subject of review at a state level. One asserts that locals are frustrated at the current lack of parking, which also has adverse effect on local traders.</td>
<td>Parking congestion is a recognised issue within the Belgrave Commercial area and is the subject of current investigation. The subject site has an area of approximately 275 m², with a width of approximately 7m, and has an existing public parking bay along its eastern boundary. Supposing the building was removed, and current adjacent parking reconfigured to suit, officers contend that utilisation of the property for parking would deliver a zero, or extremely limited, net parking space increase. In recent months, the laneway to the rear of the property has been reinstated, opening the potential for the creation of several staff parking spaces on the rear of the lot, thus relieving the public carpark to a small extent. The State Government has also recently announced a budget commitment to provide an additional 470 car parking spaces at the Belgrave Railway Station. This additional parking will provide considerable relief from community use parking throughout Belgrave Township.</td>
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<td>The building is ideally located for other potential community uses (including as</td>
<td>The building has not been identified as being required or suitable for the delivery of</td>
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meeting room, gallery, community garden, museum, or tourist information centre) and so should be retained by Council and repurposed accordingly.

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community services into the future. Council and other community services are to be delivered from the new Belgrave Hub facility, which is located only 60m to the west of the subject site.

One submitter supports Council's proposal to sell, suggesting the building has limited future usage potential due to its age and small size.

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The new Belgrave Hub building is an example of Council’s strategic approach to community facilities and the creation of central ‘hub’ style buildings that provide a range of community activities and services under the one roof. This reduces costs to Council of maintaining multiple buildings, which in turn reduces costs to ratepayers. This strategy also means that Council has the opportunity to investigate the sale of older, vacant properties such as this, whereby sale proceeds can be reinvested into capital works projects which meet current and future community requirements.

The late submission is a philosophical piece, questioning European man’s insistence on not honouring, but tearing down history while taking satisfaction in finding no meaning in institutions of the past, and draws a connection between the proposed sale of the land and the collapse of civilization. The submitter contends that the centralization of services into a central hub is flawed logic that “won't stand up against the arguments of future economic rationalism”.

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Council is committed to its strategic direction to deliver the new Belgrave Hub as a centralised multi-service delivery facility for the Belgrave area.

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**FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

This committee meeting to hear public submission does not in itself have any financial implications. Should Council finally resolve to sell the property, the sale would be conducted in accordance with Council’s Sale of Land Policy, and in line with the Local Government Best Practice Guideline for the Sale, Exchange & Transfer of Land.
KEY ISSUES

Environmental Impacts
There are no particular environmental impacts identified in relation to this Committee meeting.

Social Impacts
There are no particular social impacts identified in relation to this Committee meeting.

Economic Impacts
There are no particular economic impacts identified in relation to this Committee meeting.

Risk Assessment
There has been no risk assessment undertaken in relation this Committee meeting.

CONCLUSION
The Committee has been convened to hear public submissions in relation to the Council’s proposal to sell 1632 Burwood Hwy, from four submitters who have requested to speak in support of their submission.

Following the submission hearing, a report, which will include a summary of hearings, will be presented to an Ordinary meeting of Council for Council’s consideration and decision as to whether or not the property should be sold.

ATTACHMENTS
1  Public Submission #1
2  Public Submission #2
3  Public Submission #3
4  Public Submission #4
5  Public Submission #5 - Save the Dandenongs League
6  Public Submission #6 - Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society
7  Public Submission #7 - Dandenong Ranges Historical Council
8  Public Submission #8
9  Public Submission #9
10 LATE SUBMISSION - Public Submission #10
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 9 Apr 2018 23:48:06 +0000
To: mail
Subject: Sale of Council land - 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave

Good morning
I am not a resident of the Yarra Ranges. I live in Emerald.
But I am frequently in Belgrave due to the great businesses located there and for accessing the railway. In the future my daughter will be attending school there.
I am hoping the shire can make a sensible decision and plan for the future and not sell this land but developed additional carparking.
Considering at a state level it is being looked at.

Regards
From:  
Sent: 10 Apr 2018 22:47:35 +1000  
To:  
Subject: Re: Sale of Council land - 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave

Hello

an idea for the building is an information centre.

cheers [Redacted]

On 10/04/2018 10:37 PM, [Redacted] wrote:

Chief Executive Officer

Yarra Ranges Council

10/04/2018

Dear Sir Madam,

I am a regular visitor to Belgrave but more importantly I am a "local" who was born, lived & continuously visited this wonderful town.

My Father, [Redacted] arrived to Belgrave around 1936 with his Mother, Sister [Redacted].

All of these people mentioned raised their families in Belgrave, including their children. More importantly my Father & his brothers served in WW2 and proudly went to the Belgrave RSL. But we know it burnt down and was never replaced. The Belgrave RSL was an important building that was lost to the people & the town.

The Belgrave Girls guide Hall was also a part of the RSL and that too was burnt and not replaced in Belgrave.

The next building to be lost in Belgrave was the Anglican Church.

The loss of these buildings is the loss of the heritage of Belgrave.

I personally want this building to be protected to keep the history of Belgrave and because my mother attended this school. I wonder who else attended the school who may be notable people of both Belgrave
and nearby towns. I feel every one would be a notable person, as they school children became the adults of the town & the babies who attended the ante natal clinic became those who helped made this town what it is today. In fact my Brother and step Brothers the would have been babies at the ante natal clinic.

My Father was saddened by the change of the shire from Sherbrooke Shire to the Shire of Yarra Ranges. Not because of the name change, but because he saw that Belgrave was forgotten & placed second to Lilydale. Dad would say that the money went to Lillydale and the shire did not support the Belgrave residents. This is one of these again, not supporting Belgrave of it's residents or history. So I am writing on behalf of my dear Dad, who lived in Belgrave & Tecoma until his death in 2009. Dad wanted to keep the historical aspects of Belgrave as the focus of the town especially after his beloved RSL being lost and not rebuilt ( and my Girl Guide hall).

This Old school building is one of these historical buildings that is a focus of the town, what it is and what it was.

Proudly My Grandfather , who worked for the SEC also supported the town and was a member of the Puffing Billy Preservation Society, that returned the train to the rails after a landslide in the late 1950s.

As woman with a Proud Belgrave Heritage I ask for I ask you to reconsider selling the site and therefore destroying another peace of Belgrave's History. Please put history before money.

Please feel free to contact me on M

Kindest Regards'
To whom it may concern,

Re: 1632 Burwood Hwy Belgrave.

I feel that the use of council land and property would best be converted in to additional parking in Belgrave.

Belgrave has become a much more popular destination for tourists, and those looking for a move while our property prices had remained reasonable in comparison to other areas.

Countless times I have attempted to use my local shops at Belgrave only to drive around in circles and then give up due to the lack of parking. I have seen friends and locals post on community forums multiple times that they are so frustrated they are travelling the extra distance to Monkulk or Fern Tree Gully to shop.

A new community hub is only going to exacerbate this problem. We are at the end of a busy train line, and with more young families the demand will only increase. Puffing Billy continues to be hugely popular.

We are a thriving and growing area. In a location like Belgrave where there are limited options for space, the council lack foresight in not using whatever available space is left to them to add more parking.

I have witnessed for years a main street struggling for clientele. Ugly and run down, half filled unpopular shops. We now have a great choice of nicer shops and people actually enjoying them. But locals are already frustrated and will continue to turn away and find alternatives if there are no options for parking.

These choices will continue to reflect badly on council, and locals faith in a council that can look after it's people.

I do not support the sale of 1632 Burwood Hwy, and instead ask the council to forward plan around the needs of it's community.

Kind Regards,

[Signature]

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.
From: [Redacted]
Sent: 10 Apr 2018 16:09:41 +1000
To: [Redacted]
Subject: 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave

April 10th, 2018

Mr. Patterson
Public Submission
The Chief Executive Officer
PO Box 105
Lilydale VIC 3140
Re: 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave

Dear Mr. Patterson,

I support the proposed sale of the commercial property. Due to the completion of the new Belgrave Community Hub facility, the use of 1632 Burwood Highway is now obsolete and has limited use. It has a limited use due to the age and dated amenities. The small size of the improvements is also very restrictive.

Please contact me at [Redacted] or [Redacted] if you have any questions regarding my submission.

Sincerely,

[Redacted]
The Chief Executive Officer  
Yarra Ranges Council  
PO Box 105  
Lilydale VIC 3140  
Re: Sale of Council land – 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave  

The Save the Dandenongs League is concerned that Council is considering selling the above property.

This is not just a piece of empty land. On this land is a building, a very old building, in fact one of the oldest buildings in Belgrave.

This building, commonly known as the Old Belgrave Grammar School, has played an extremely important part in Belgrave's history and development for the past 90 years.

The various alterations and additions to the building that mostly took place around 70 years ago, although not considered visually attractive, are still a significant part of the fabric of the building and have an important story to tell.

It has not been Heritage Listed. This is obviously a serious oversight.

In the Belgrave Precinct Heritage Study Report prepared by Lovell Chen in 2000, there are a number of buildings both commercial and residential that were recommended for Heritage Overlay protection.

The report is very thorough in its description of Belgrave's commercial and residential features, but completely overlooks the important role this building played in the development of education and maternal and children's welfare during Belgrave's formative years.

The Old Belgrave Grammar School building provided a home for these essential functions in the young Belgrave township during difficult and challenging times. Built in 1925, it was one of the first schools in the area. In 1938 it became the Infant Welfare Centre, taking care of mothers and babies for over 35 years, and incorporating an antenatal clinic from 1952. The building then adapted to other important community services during
more recent times. The story this building conveys is a vital part of the story of Belgrave, which also had to grow, develop and adapt to change over the past 100 years.

The building represents so much more than its appearance suggests. It is currently in a dilapidated condition, which is due to lack of maintenance over many years, that Council should have been attending to. The roof needs repairing. The garden at the front is untidy and overgrown. The rear yard is barren and unsightly. So much more should have been done to maintain this property in a tidy and attractive condition.

For Council to consider this building to be redundant or surplus to the community’s needs, shows a lack of willingness to engage with local residents and others who can readily suggest any number of uses for this property:

- Museum of local history
- Living History Museum of early 20th century schooling.
- Tourist Information Centre (particularly important since the closure of the Info Centre at Upper Ferntree Gully.
- Gallery for permanent display of local handcrafts etc.
- Meeting Room for garden groups complete with outside Community Garden Space.
- Meeting Room for Belgrave Seniors Groups.
- Meeting Room for any number of other volunteer groups from around the local community.

If Council is indeed respectful of the age and origins of the former Belgrave Grammar School building, the only outcome should be the appointment of a review committee to assess all possible options for its future use. Repairs and maintenance should be undertaken immediately as part of Council’s commitment to its continued preservation as an iconic heritage building. It should be restored to a condition that all Belgrave, indeed all Dandenong Ranges’ residents, can be proud of.

To summarise:

This is a fascinating old building which has had to grow and adapt in order to service the growing needs of Belgrave over the past 90 years. Even the curious brick addition at the front has a story to tell and should be included in the preservation of the building. It has suffered through lack of maintenance over many years which Council should have been attending to. It is not acceptable to sell off this old building or to allow it to be pulled down just because it is temporarily vacant. Old buildings have character. New buildings have no character and a tendency to all look the same...! If this continues at the current rate there’ll be no character and no history left in Belgrave at all.

The Save the Dandenongs League request the opportunity to speak in support of our submission before Council. Please keep us informed of the progress of this issue.

Yours faithfully,
Betty Marsden OAM
President
The Belgrave Grammar School opened in 1925 under Miss G. Lucas. The students in this photo of the Belgrave Grammar School, taken in c. 1932 are:


In 1938, this building was moved to a site on the Main St, which had been purchased by the local Baby Health Centre as a permanent home, after operating out of the Memorial Hall since 1922 with the support of the local RSL, which provided a small room free of charge. A special appeal for 500 pounds was conducted in 1938 for the purchase of the land and the building, with much of the money raised through the sale of semi-precious stones which had been donated.

(Phot & Notes: Margaret Nix ex-Richardson)
SUBMISSION re: Sale of Council land – 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave

SUBMITTED BY: Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society, Inc.

Our society, which covers the southern portion of Belgrave, strongly opposed Yarra Ranges Council's proposition to sell of the above block of land with the building on it. This building, as you will be aware, began life as the Belgrave Grammar School, and later became the Belgrave Baby Health Centre, before serving in various other community capacities.

The society is aware that the building was not included in the 2000 Heritage Study. However, this omission was more to do with the inadequate nature of the study, both in the initial selection of sites to be considered and in the research carried out to determine priority status. The Lovell Chen report on the Grammar School building emphasised the fact that it has been altered and extended and had later brick and render elements. This study failed to appreciate that these later additions (which in themselves date back several decades and which are simply a facade on an otherwise original 1925 building) are an intrinsic part of the Belgrave Baby Health Centre's history which is itself a crucial part of the area's social history.

HISTORY OF THE BUILDING

The Grammar School opened in 1925, and was the first school built within the Belgrave township: the school which was known as Belgrave State School between 1908 and 1960 is located in Tecoma and is now known as Tecoma Primary School; St Thomas More Catholic Primary School was a later addition to the community.

The school building was originally sited further down the block, nearer the railway line, and it remains virtually intact, at least externally. The Grammar School, especially under the Principal, Miss Anna White, strove to provide students with a firm grounding of free and independent thought, as outlined by Miss White in her 1932 Annual Report. It is clear that the school was held in high regard by its community.

The school closed at the end of 1937, and in July 1938, having been resited closer to the road (and turned 90 degrees, judging by old photos) it opened as the Belgrave Baby Health Centre, “tastefully decorated with life-sized paintings in pastel shades on the walls”. It is unclear whether the later brick addition (which either incorporated or replaced the original school entrance) was added at this time. An ante-natal clinic was established at the centre in 1952.

POSSIBLE FUTURE USES

Tourism is a vital part of the economy of the Dandenong Ranges. As the largest town in the southern ranges and home to Puffing Billy Tourist Railway, Belgrave ought to be a tourist mecca. It is well supplied with attractions, eateries, etc. but it is sadly lacking an Information Centre. Anecdotal evidence shows that many visitors would like to know what to see and where to go but they have limited opportunities to find this information. The former grammar school is ideally placed at the entrance to the town and is right next to a car park. For a modest outlay, this building could reap greater benefits for the area as a whole.

Failing this, has relocation been considered? There are at least two sites which have been mooted, one in Belgrave and one in Belgrave Heights, where it could be utilised as an information centre, or museum, or home for an historical society.

Marian Matta, on behalf of the Southern Sherbrooke Historical Society, wishes to appear in person to represent the society’s views at any hearing.
SUBMISSION re: Sale of Council land – 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave (PDF, 242 KB)

By: The Dandenong Ranges Historical Council Inc. Contact. Susan Heywood Downard.

The Belgrave Grammar School was the first and only school built in the township of Belgrave. The State school known as Belgrave was, in fact, the existing Primary school in Tecoma.

This significant building has a long and interesting history that includes much of early Belgrave life. Very few buildings and sites remain. We believe it is important to keep and maintain the few that are a recognisable part of old Belgrave. In this case the building is small and would be easy to maintain. It doesn't intrude or interfere with any other possible development and is located directly next to a car park.

We believe it would make an excellent Tourist Information Centre.

It opened in 1925 and provided an educational curriculum that was unusual for its time. Helen Coulson calls it an "educational experiment". The initial teacher, Miss G Lucas, did not remain long and Miss Anna White became the teacher until her resignation sometime after sustaining "severe head injuries" in December 1932 after a fall in her home through a trap door the previous year.

Miss White held views well ahead of her time, believing that it was important that children should be trained to choose and judge for themselves so that they would grow naturally to form a habit of free and independent thought which many people attain only by difficult ways and many more never attain at all. There are newspaper reports of concerts held at the Bell Bird Café including folk dancing and "Bubbles". Dame Sybil Thorndike expressed surprise and pleasure at the high standard of literature after the pupils presented "Sister gold", a play by Laurence Houseman for the end of the year in 1932. Many of the names of pupils are not known today but at least one of Dr Francis children attended as did a Chandler, a Tankard, and Hope Clark, all well known families of the day.

The school closed at the end of 1937 and was purchased by the Baby Health Centre Building Committee the following May when it was moved to closer to the main road, to open "after alterations have taken place".

Sister Chalmers was appointed by the Shire of Ferntree Gully to provide infant welfare services at Ferntree Gully and Belgrave in 1926 as well as in the Shire of Lilydale. Until the former Grammar School building was purchased, consultations were held in the nearby Memorial Hall. In 1930, 554 babies attended the service at Belgrave, more than were recorded for Ferntree Gully. The stand alone Baby Health Centre began in June 1938 and was officially opened in July of that year by the Lord Mayor of Melbourne Councillor E Campbell with Sister Lipscombe, who remained the Sister in the district for 20 years. An antenatal clinic was established at the centre in 1952.

It was a badly needed service, hugely varied and personal. Letters from women between 1934-1954 that remain give eloquence to the difficulties of everyday life for them and the faith and respect they had for their very hard-working Sister.

These very few extracts will give some idea of the breadth and scope of her work.

Advice sought after the chemist diagnosed her child with ringworm after he had been to the baths, the reservoir, an unnamed water hole and after "playing with cats at Moran & Cato" as the family visited Belgrave often and she didn't want it to happen again.
The Queen Victoria Hospital asked if Sister could give weekly injections to a patient who was shortly to be discharged. If she could, the patient may need to go to the hospital only once a month instead of weekly "She would not be able to afford a private Doctor's fee and the trip to Melbourne would be both expensive and tiring as she would have to bring the two youngest children with her."

In addition she visits every new mother, distributes penta-vite, peanuts [would you believe!]
Vegemite, recipes for apples and pears, Granose biscuits and is asked to suggest new products like Farax, liaise with hospitals, the Health Department, doctors, Sisters from other areas, Almoners and other professionals.

The Heritage Study of 2000 was not ever regarded as complete. The places nominated were not provided in any methodical way and the township of Belgrave was presented as a whole rather than building by building. The Grammar School received scant attention. The local knowledgeable Historical Groups were not regularly or methodically consulted as part of the process, although this organisation pushed hard to be involved.

The original wooden building is a classic example of a small school building of the time and has been little changed as it was used. The exact timing of the brick addition is unclear, although anecdotal evidence links it directly to the change of use to a Baby Health Centre where it formed part of the continued use.

Since it ceased to be used as an Infant Welfare Centre it has had a number of other necessary community uses, including that of Community Aid & Advice Bureau and as a tourist Information centre.

It clearly has not been properly maintained, needing new iron on the roof and a good clean up and appropriate landscaping in front. Hardly an expensive or extensive requirement.

There is no current Tourist Information Service in this part of the Shire since the building in Upper Ferntree Gully was closed. We have had several recent reports of tourists asking local people for assistance in what to visit and where various sites can be found. We believe that, with tourism such an important part of the area's economy, the former Grammar School is ideally located and of a suitable size to fulfill this role.

Volunteers from local heritage groups could lend their considerable expertise of the area along with information provided by businesses with a vested interest and other parties.

Susan Heywood Downard wishes to appear in person to represent the Historical Council's views at any hearing.

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The Argus, May 18 1938, Page 6, “Other Districts”
Letters to Sister Lipscombe, 1934 - 1954

Photograph: Reflections of the Past, Volume 3, Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society, 2005
Belgrave Grammar School, 111.
Public Submission
The Chief Executive Officer
Yarra Ranges Council

Re: 1632 Burwood Hwy Belgrave (Belgrave Grammar School)

Dear Mr. Patterson

I am aware the above property is currently being considered for sale and wish to express my support for Council’s retention of this historic building. Built in 1928, Belgrave Grammar School catered for the educational needs of the children of Belgrave for 13 years. The building was then transformed into Belgrave's Maternal & Infant Healthcare Centre and from 1952 was also the location of the Ante Natal Clinic. The provision of these services was not only essential for the health of Belgrave's residents but in offering care and support to young mothers and their babies, this service contributed to the wellbeing, stability and growth of the entire local region over a period of around 40 years. The Health Centre eventually closed, but other uses were found for the building with the most recent being the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service.

So, for more than 90 years this old building has served the local community well. It deserves to be protected and preserved for at least another 90.

The land is also important; it is has trees, front and back, and a garden facing the street. Albeit untidy and a little overgrown at present this is the last street facing garden along the entire stretch of Belgrave’s commercial shopping strip until the park at the roundabout at the other end. As the property is in a commercial zone, should it be sold to a developer I have no doubt the first casualty would be the garden and the trees. Retention of this remnant garden space is just as important to use as the retention of the old school building. The best outcome for this property would be for Council to give it a new life with a new purpose.

Many other Belgrave buildings have survived their original use and re-emerged with new identities to continue to provide goods and services for the people of the local area as well as visitors to the region.

When visitors and tourists arrive at Belgrave today, they are often captivated by the appearance of Belgrave's streetscape with its steep topography, scenic backdrop, and happy mix of architectural styles reflecting the many different periods of Belgrave's history, which in turn reflects the growth and development of this important hills' township from when it was first a centre for the early logging and sawmilling industry,
and then later as a central hub for both social interaction and commerce, supplying all the necessities of modern living, including education, health and welfare. The Grammar School building has been part of that streetscape for 90 years, changing and adjusting as Belgrave changed and adjusted. It is an integral part of Belgrave's history and should be conserved and commemorated as such.

Now that the Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service is moving out, Council has the perfect opportunity to clean up the garden and repair and refurbish the building to restore it to take pride of place in the township's diverse streetscape.

I urge Council to retain this property, with its important historic school building, its trees and its tiny plot of garden, and turn it into something special for the people of Belgrave to use and admire.

Please advise if there will be further debate on this subject and if you would like to contact me for clarification or amplification of any of the points I have raised. I would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you the many options that could be employed in order to turn this neglected council property into a valuable community asset.

Yours sincerely,
To CEO Yarra Ranges Council.

Dear Sir, in response to a proposal to dispose of the site and building located at 1632 Burwood Highway, Belgrave.

As a resident of Belgrave Heights and Yarra Ranges Shire Council for fifty years I wish to lodge an objection to the proposed disposal and change of ownership from Yarra Ranges Council to external ownership.

The current building and site is of significant historical importance and during its life has served the people well of the Dandenong Ranges, Victoria and Australia.

From its inception as Belgrave Grammar School then Baby Health Centre, Citizens Advice and Aid Bureau and now Dandenong Ranges Emergency Relief Service, at all time there has been a direct connection and association with the local community and has and when necessary been supported by direct financial contribution for its survival by the community.

I suggest the building since 1925 and its present location since 1938 should be retained in public ownership via the stewardship of Yarra Ranges Council and not disposed of as if the property is of no further use.

It may be argued that the building may require ongoing maintenance, such would be expected considering its age of some 93 years.

The building and its location provides a link with the past and demonstrates that in the future we, today, have a sense of appreciation and gratitude of what we have inherited and are able to pass to future generations.

The retention and continued use in some form of such an historical building and site should be regarded as a matter of pride by Council and the Dandenong Ranges community.

The building and site is part of the charm and streetscape of Belgrave. Belgrave is not a suburb that requires demolition and replacements of assets and to be regarded as no more than a bright new shopping centre.

Comment has been made that the building is old and in 1938 was relocated from one Belgrave site to another, thus is of no historical significance.

A similar argument could be applied to Captain Cookâ€™s cottage from Great Ayton, Yorkshire, England to Melbourne Australia in 1934.

The subject building and site is of great importance to the people of Dandenong Ranges, Victoria and Australia.

To place some time frame on the matter, the building has been in existence and use for 40 percent of the time lapse since the first fleet landed in Australia.

Rather than any proposal to have the building possibly demolished and its history obliterated I suggest we should all be anticipating a celebration of 100 years of its being part of our community.

As an enterprising nation and community I am sure a purposeful and ongoing use can be found for the building and site rather than just disposing of it as just more landfill.

I am sure that Council as representatives of the Community are able to appreciate the significance of the building and site if looked at with a more detailed examination and some foresight and pride.

I ask that the Community be more involved and consulted prior to any disposal, once lost, it will be too late to grieve and wish it that it had never happened.

Thank you for reading this submission.
To the Chief executive officer,

I am writing with the kindest regards to the proposed sale of the council land located at 1632 Burwood Highway. I am quite aware that the date of this submission is a whole one week and two days later than the end date for submissions, which was prescribed as the 13th of April, seeing as today is the 22nd of April. Nonetheless, I feel obliged to put forth my views on the issue despite being late seeing as, in the world that we do both share, news does not travel as smoothly as we both would like, despite our newest technologies and assumptions.

I am a new resident to the general area, living in the Basin, and I happened to find myself in Belgrave yesterday. Before coming across the sign, I bought a book from the op-shop around the corner called ‘Historic Places of Australia’. I bought this not just because it appears as a wonderfully presented book, reminding Australians that are interested (which appears to be not too many) that decadence was not always the central component of our cultural lives. This is important, as I see it, because decadence and along with that hopelessness are not only found everywhere today, they are mutually reinforcing and, being not just a young man myself, but a teacher of young men and women, I see that hopelessness seep through into every facet of life: the future is an undesirable thought for young people today. The hopelessness of life, driven by nothing more than increasing consumption, is considered the overarch goal of life, and any greater concerns, concerns associated with leading a public life, committed to civil society and the attainment of virtues are seen as mere add-on, mere symbols to add to the ability to increase consumption. They are not valuable in themselves, but as means to achieve something else. The communitarian life appears to be gone, but I am as yet unaware of what this ‘something else’ actually is, and so far it appears to me that no one actually knows.

What is driving this? Well, there are a number of factors of which I cannot go into at this moment due to time constraints. But this takes me to the more fundamental point of the book which I bought. The introduction was written by the great Australian historian Manning Clark, in which he hoped this text would capture ‘the spirit of old Australia.’ He writes:

In doing so it helps all those who read it not only do justice to and indeed to honour the forebears, but it also has a message about an age which possibly laid the foundations not in the sands of our present consumer goods culture, our temptation and tendency to identify size with goodness and happiness and well-being, but on solid ground. Perhaps that is why old Australia still haunts us, mocks us for our feverish search for trivialities and reminds us of what we must do if we are not all to lose our way in the haze of an industrial smog.

Those words of Clark ring even true today, in a time when it appears that the collapse of social life coincides with a collapse of understanding, orientation and meaning, which of course coincides with great crisis faced by the whole of our own civilization, most fundamentally climate change, which Australia as a political entity is not taking seriously. Is it possible to draw a connection between these apparently separate concerns? Clark writes:

Wherever the European settled he built as quickly as he could what he believed to be the essential of civilization: he build a court-house in which those who violated the laws of God and the laws of man were punished; he built a school-house in which the young were introduced to that knowledge which was supposed to advance them both in wisdom and power; he built churches in which the meaning of life was explained to all those who assembled there to render thanks, to ask for benefits or just to be seen to be doing what they believed would help them to get on, or perhaps even in the hope of finding out what life was all about.

Rather than building things today, European man appears hell-bent upon tearing them down. He finds satisfaction in finding no meaning in institutions of the past. He sees the creations
made by those of past civilization not as a reminder of the purpose of life, a reminder of what came before and a reminder of how to act, thought up by more learned and creative men and women who not only preceded him but are necessarily wiser than him; but as inhibiting constraints which must be torn down in order to achieve both freedom and a fully rational order. To do this, man must exist within the rules of the laws which are themselves merely the construction of man, in a world in which man, as an individual stripped from his social world, finds himself completely up against the power of the laws created by his predecessors, which are themselves stripped of the institutional context from which they emerged, so each effectively are nothing more than empty abstractions and thus meaningless. Guided by meaningless signs, it is not surprising that man himself has become meaningless.

It may appear as laughable that I see the connection between the effort to sell off a small piece of public land in the Eastern suburbs as connected to the collapse of civilization, but I find it equally laughable that people do not see this connection. Is it not so that, today, each part of the world really does live under the same set of rules, and those rules have coincided with the assault on public life, an assault which forces people to compete for survival in the market and legitimates the sale of public spaces in order to legitimate this struggle, which is then called rational by those who benefit. There is not some particular place in which collapse occurs, I cannot watch civilization collapse from the perspective 'outside', it occurs everywhere, and each unconscious and necessary action contributes to the breaking of the camels back.

Small decision such as this one, over a long period of time, chip away at the core values of social life, enriching the few in the process. All of the sudden, those social values are completely excluded from consideration in rational debate which occur in boardrooms far away from the public eye, and nihilism and decadence take the place of meaning. This is a self-reinforcing process. As Clark wrote above 'he built a school-house in which the young were introduced to that knowledge which was supposed to advance them both in wisdom and power.' Education, today, an industry in which I am involved in, is falling because it is defined by those in boardrooms who assume that wisdom is power, and make decision from within that narrow background, a phenomenon which is not new to civilization, as any student of history would be aware.

European man as a figment of our imagination which we embody finds it rational to strip the past from the present and remove from his own surroundings any evidence of a past life, in which man might have lived in a different way, driven by different ideals and values. As a consequence, he is blind to his own participation in a tradition hell-bent on destroying the conditions for a civil life, and therefore paving the way for an ushering in of a new world of barbarism, in which the Donald Trump's, the Pauline Hanson's and alike become the new norms and ideals to blindly imitate and follow precisely because we forget what came before them, where they came from and, perhaps most importantly, who we are.

The final point I would like to make is with regards to the connection between both Manning Clark and social life. After a nice lunch, I, along with my partner and a friend, was walking back to the car when I came across the sign announcing the sale as well as 3 people out the front, whose concerned voices turned my attention towards the sign. I listened to what they discussed, and interrupted in order to get a little information. Of course, I learned more in a brief discussion with who just happened to be an historian of the Eastern side of outer Melbourne, the soil upon which we were standing, than I could have in front a computer google searching for a week. What I found out was that the property was once a school, and not just any school but, as I am sure that you already know, the school of Manning Clark.

All that I am trying to remind you of in this brief email is that you are currently participating in history, and each decision which appears as a rational or necessary decision at this present time
becomes all the more irreversible in the future, when the role of the council, as a political entity central to the functioning of our own democracy, is no longer capable of legitimating its own existence for the very reason that it has discarded everything that makes it purposeful, an action which contributes to the erosion of the nation's democracy as a whole. Indeed, councils exist precisely as decentralised entities through which the population as a whole can express its democratic will. Clearly, with the existence of corporations like Cambridge Analytica, whose overarching business models involves utilizing data collected online to subvert democratic process, we can not participate in democratic institutions via centralised forums and chat rooms online. We can only revive a set of values capable of defending our national sovereignty via an active social life and councils which do not recognise this brute fact are effectively selling the nation's future from under the feet of its children and grandchildren, whose voices are not, and cannot, be listen to under the weight of economic imperatives which are hostile to a community life and therefore democracy.

Thus, in the spirit of this email, and in the spirit of that lovely old woman, whose knowledge could skip so simply over a 60 year gap, and in the spirit of the life lived by Manning Clark, I urge you to reconsider the purpose of this land. While the idea of a centralised hub appears to make sense in the current climate of economic rationalism, it does not even make economic sense, for it undermines the sporadic nature which is a necessary part of a community life, and will not stand up against the arguments of future economic rationalism when politicians argue that institutions like these are the reason taxes are so high. This mistake has been made time and time again by managers a careerists whose main drivers are short-termism, egoists and self-enrichment, values that are naturally antithetical to a public life but that are embodied in economic logic. It is these values which have undermined the active community ethics upon which a healthy democracy is based. Your argument runs contrary to the very values which brought you into being as a political entity, which, at the time of federation, was a strong commitment to the values of social democracy.

This is important in understanding why Australia is so politically impotent and unable to deal with bigger issues, like house prices being completely divorced from reality and climate change, which threatens the future of civilization itself. Selling the land upon which this can be achieve amounts to selling your own future and destroying the future of human civilization. Because it is no longer taken seriously that we ought to and can express our democratic will through active participation in democratic institutions rather than exit polls.

These issues are on the gravest importance and should be absolutely central to your considerations and the argument of anyone capable of seeing these particular issues within the broader context that they exist within. Therefore, I hope you make the effort to consider the thrust of this argument seriously.

Kindest regards,
In providing for the good governance of its community, Councillors are reminded of their obligation to abide by the provisions as set within the Local Government Act 1989 and the Code of Conduct for Councillors.

When attending a Council Meeting, Councillors should adhere to the procedures set out in the Meeting Procedures and Use of Common Seal Local Law.

The following is a guide for all Councillors to ensure they act honestly, in good faith and in the best interests of Yarra Ranges as a whole.

1. Councillors will respect the personal views of other Councillors and the decisions of Council.
2. Councillors may publicly express their own opinions on Council matters but not so as to undermine the standing of Council in the community.
3. The Mayor is the official spokesperson for Council.
4. Councillors will incur expenditure in a responsible manner and in accordance with the Councillor Expenditure and Policy.
5. Councillors will avoid conflicts of interest and will always openly disclose any direct and indirect interests where they exist.
6. Councillors will act with integrity and respect when interacting with Council staff and members of the public.
7. Councillors will demonstrate fairness in all dealings and conduct and be open with and accountable to the community at all times.
8. Councillors will conduct themselves in a manner that does not cause detriment to Council or the Yarra Ranges community.

This guidance forms part of the Code of Conduct for Councillors, adopted on 14 February 2017. The Code of Conduct is reviewed following each Council Election.