



Colac Otway  
SHIRE

**SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING**

**AGENDA**

**Wednesday 12 June 2024**

**at 4:00 PM**

**COPACC**

**95 - 97 Gellibrand Street, Colac**



# COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

Wednesday 12 June 2024

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# COLAC OTWAY SHIRE SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING

NOTICE is hereby given that the next **SUBMISSIONS COMMITTEE MEETING OF THE COLAC OTWAY SHIRE COUNCIL** will be held at COPACC on Wednesday 12 June 2024 at 4:00 PM.

## AGENDA

### **1 DECLARATION OF OPENING**

#### **OPENING PRAYER**

*Almighty God, we seek your blessing and guidance in our deliberations on behalf of the people of the Colac Otway Shire. Enable this Council's decisions to be those that contribute to the true welfare and betterment of our community.*

AMEN

### **2 PRESENT**

### **3 APOLOGIES**

Cr Margaret White

### **4 WELCOME AND ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF COUNTRY AND REASON FOR MEETING**

Colac Otway Shire acknowledges the original custodians and law makers of this land, their elders past and present and welcomes any descendants here today.

#### **RECORDING AND PUBLICATION OF MEETINGS**

Please note: All Submissions Committee meetings live streamed and recorded when the meeting is held either at COPACC or online. This includes the public participation sections of the meetings. When meetings are held in other locations, Council will endeavour to make an audio recording of the meeting for community access. Matters identified as confidential items in the Agenda will not be live streamed or recorded regardless of venue or mode.

By participating in open Submissions Committee meetings, individuals consent to the use and disclosure of the information they share at the meeting (including any personal and/or sensitive information).

As soon as practicable following each open Submissions Committee meeting, the live stream recording will be accessible on Council's website. Recordings are also taken to facilitate the preparation of the

minutes of open Submissions Committee meetings and to ensure their accuracy. Recordings will be retained by Council for a period of four years.

This meeting will be livestreamed to the public via Council's You Tube channel (search Colac Otway Shire Council at [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com)).

The sole purpose of this Submissions Committee meeting is to hear persons who indicated they wish to speak in support of their written submissions to the <<insert topic of submission>>.

## **5 DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST**

A Councillor who has declared a conflict of interest, must leave the meeting and remain outside the room while the matter is being considered, or any vote is taken.

Councillors are also encouraged to declare circumstances where there may be a perceived conflict of interest.

## **6 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES**

- **Submissions Committee meeting held on 8 May 2024.**

### ***RECOMMENDATION***

***That the Submissions Committee confirm the minutes of the Submissions Committee meeting held on 8 May 2024.***

## **7 VERBAL SUBMISSIONS**

The Mayor is to read out the names of the people who have confirmed they wish to make a verbal submission. These verbal submissions will be made in relation to each respective agenda item and must be directly relevant to the respective agenda item. A limit of 5 minutes will apply.

Item: 8.1

## Submissions to the proposed discontinuance of Road Reserve parallel to 80a Hart St Colac

<b>OFFICER</b>	David Butterfield
<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Andrew Tenni
<b>DIVISION</b>	Corporate Services
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil

### 1. PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with the submission received as a result of Council giving notice of its intention to discontinue the road reserve that runs parallel to 80a Hart Street Colac.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

At the scheduled Council meeting on the 27 March 2024 Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to discontinue the Road Reserve adjacent to 80a Hart Street, Colac. The purpose of giving notice is to provide opportunity for the community to make a submission regarding Council's intention and is also a requirement of the *Road Management Act 2004* and *Local Government Act 1989*.

Council's notice of its intention to discontinue the Road Reserve was advertised in the Colac Herald and on Council's website on Friday 5 April 2024. The consultation period was 6 weeks concluding on 17 May 2024.

Council received one submission. The submitter has asked to be heard. The submission is provided in full to Councillors as a confidential attachment to this report.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

*That the Submissions Committee:*

1. *Receives and notes the submissions regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road Reserve parallel to 80a Hart Street Colac.*
2. *Thanks, the submitter for their contribution to Council's consideration of this matter.*
3. *Recommends to Council that it considers the submission regarding the proposed discontinuance of the Road Reserve parallel to 80a Hart Street Colac at the 26 June 2024 Council Meeting.*

### 4. KEY INFORMATION

#### Background

The unused Road Reserve is on a freehold Certificate of Title in the name of Colac Otway Shire Council (483.55 square meters). Council is also the Registered Proprietor of the land known as 80a Hart Street, Colac (1014.40 square meters).

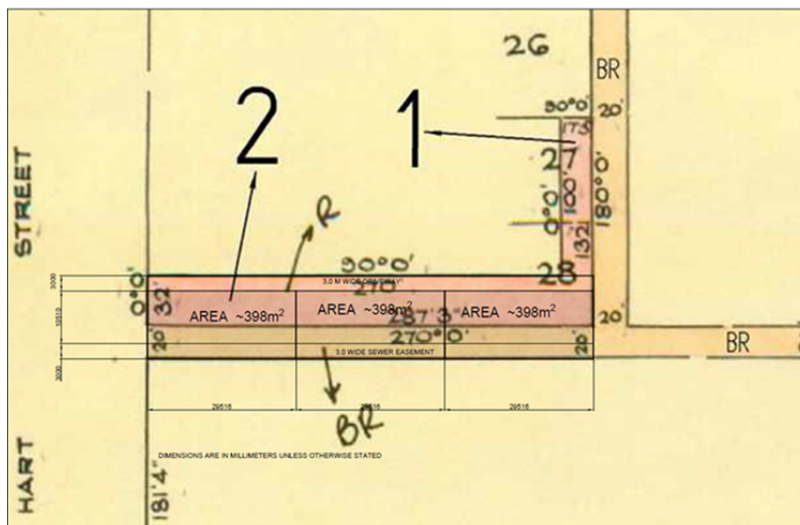
There is no identified municipal purpose for 80a Hart Street, Colac, or the unused Road Reserve adjacent to this property. This enables the land to be treated as surplus to the needs of Council, as described in Council's Acquisition and Disposal of Council Property Policy. Discontinuance of the unused Road Reserve as set out in Image 1 in this report, would enable the land to be consolidated into the Land Title for 80a Hart Street, Colac, to increase the size of that parcel of land.

There is a Barwon Water easement running along the west side of the Road Reserve. There is no intention to disrupt or change the easement or the infrastructure within the easement. Following is a picture of the subject Road Reserve (Image 1) and an extract from the Certificate of Title (Image 2). The section of Road Reserve to be discontinued is from Hart Street to the red line (lower right-hand side) as indicated on Image 1.

**Image 1.**



Image 2.



### Submission process

Council considered the preceding key information at its meeting on 27 March 2024 and resolved as follows:

#### **That Council:**

- 1. Gives public notice of its intention to discontinue the Road Reserve as set out in the plan (as per Attachment 1), pursuant to Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004 and Section 206 of the Local Government Act 1989, seeking submissions from interested parties for a period of six weeks.**
- 2. Provides an opportunity for any person wishing to speak to their written submission at a meeting of the Submissions Committee.**
- 3. Considers any submissions received, prior to making a decision to discontinue the road, at a future Council meeting.**
- 4. Authorises the General Manager Infrastructure and Operations to do all things required to discontinue the Road Reserve described in point 1 and consolidate the land into 80a Hart Street, Colac, if no public submissions are received.**
- 5. Notes that a further report will be presented prior to commencement of a process to consider sale of the property.**

Council received one submission which is provided in full to Councillors as a confidential attachment to this report.

The submitter stated that they “do not disagree with the consolidation of the road reserve into 80a Hart St to form a larger parcel of land”. The submitter also stated that they disagree with the prospect that the property may be sold in the future and instead proposed that there should first be an exploration of options for community use.

The submitter requested the opportunity to speak to their submission in person and this Submission Committee meeting is scheduled for this purpose.

## 5. CONSIDERATIONS

### **Overarching Governance Principles** (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

Council has determined that the subject land has no operational or strategic benefit and is surplus to Council requirements. Council officers believe it is in the best interests of Council to discontinue the Road Reserve.

### **Policies and Relevant Law** (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)

Local Government Act 2020 – Disposal of Council Property

Section 12 of the Road Management Act 2004. - Road Reserve discontinuance

Section 206 of the Local Government Act 1989 – Road discontinuance

### **Environmental and Sustainability Implications** (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020)

There is no known environment or sustainability implication.

### **Community Engagement** (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)

Council gave notice of its intention to discontinue the Road Reserve by advertising in the Colac Herald and on Council's website for a period of 6 weeks. The notice had provision for interested parties to make written submissions. One submission was received. The submitter asked to be heard.

### **Public Transparency** (s58 LGA 2020)

There are no known public transparency issues in this report save for the redaction of the personal details of the submitter.

### **Alignment to Plans and Strategies**

Alignment to Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme 4 – Strong Leadership and Management

Objective 1: We commit to a program of best practice and continuous improvement

Objective 2: We are a financially robust organisation

The above objectives are considered to be relevant to the subject of this report as follows:

1. The procedures outlined in this report are in accordance with relevant legislation and policies. The proposed actions will consolidate the Road Reserve into the Council owned property 80(a) Hart Street, Colac and will increase the size of the allotment.

2. At the conclusion of the discontinuance and consolidation process, it is proposed to provide a further Council Report seeking to give notice of Council's intention to dispose of the consolidated property 80(a) Hart Street, Colac.



**Financial Management** (s101 *Local Government Act 2020*)

Council currently maintains the Road Reserve at an estimated cost of \$1,000 p.a. If the Road Reserve is discontinued and consolidated it will enable Council to consider disposal of the property 80(a) Hart Street, Colac. This would provide Council with the proceeds of sale of the property.

**Service Performance** (s106 *Local Government Act 2020*)

Not Applicable to this Report.

**Risk Assessment**

Not Applicable to this Report.

**Communication/Implementation**

After considering the Submission and the verbal presentation from the submitter, Councillors will be asked to consider a Resolution to discontinue the Road Reserve at the scheduled June 2024 Council Meeting.

**Human Rights Charter**

Officers have considered the Human Rights Charter and confirm that no person's Human Rights have been diminished in this report.

**Officer General or Material Interest**

The Chief Executive Officer and General Manager Corporate Services have declared general conflicts of interest in this matter as the land is in reasonable proximity to their residences.

**Options**

Not Applicable to this Report.

## Item: 8.2

# Submissions to the proposed Colac CBD Speed Limit Changes

<b>OFFICER</b>	Kanishka Gunasekara
<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Doug McNeill
<b>DIVISION</b>	Infrastructure and Operations
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil

## 1. PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for submitters to the proposed speed limit changes in the Colac Central Business District (CBD) to verbally present their submissions to Council.

## 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

For the purpose of this matter, the Colac CBD is defined as that area bounded by Skene Street, Dennis Street, Queen Street, Rae Street, Gellibrand Street, Corangamite Street, Miller Street and Scott Street. Council sought public submissions in March/April 2024 relating to a proposal to reduce the speed limit in the Colac CBD to 40kph.

Eight submissions were received, all supporting the overall principle of reducing the speed limit as proposed. Three (3) of the submitters suggested that the speed limit reduction should be extended to include the areas around schools, childcare centres, sporting venues and aged care centres/homes. At the time of writing this report one submitter had requested to speak to their submission. It is proposed that Council will formally consider the submissions at the 26 June 2024 Council meeting.

## 3. RECOMMENDATION

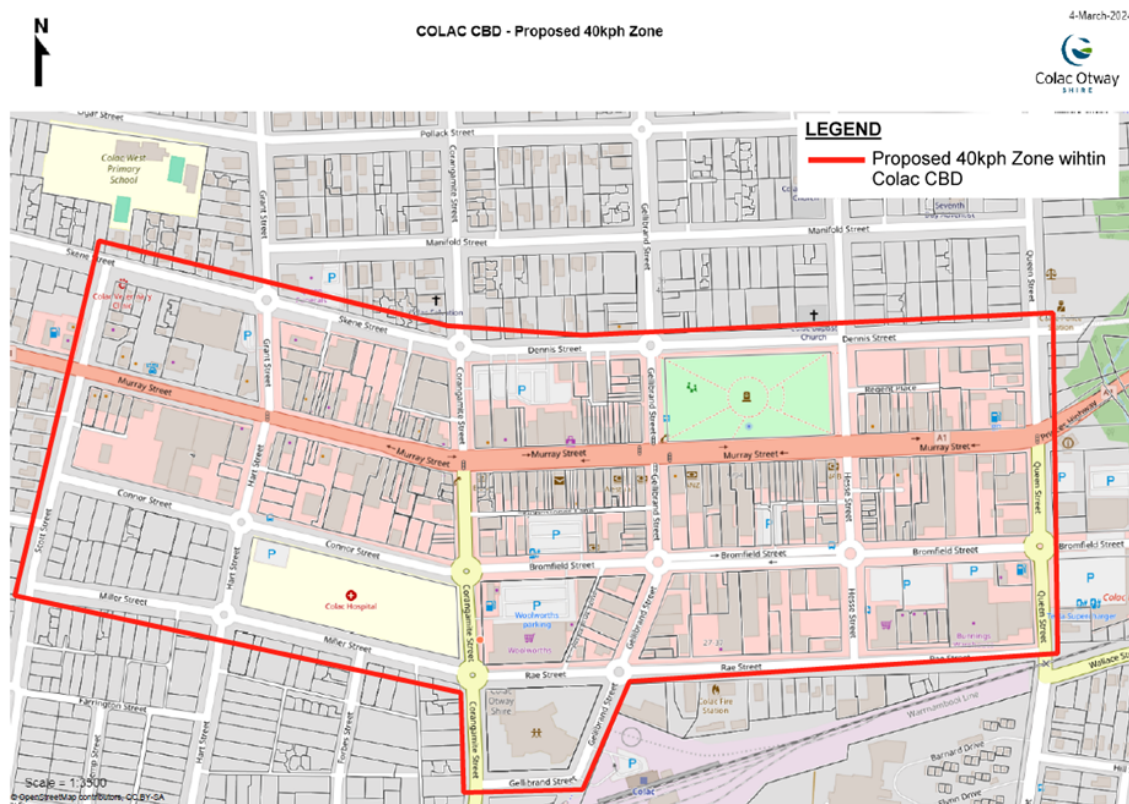
*That the Submissions Committee:*

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions regarding the proposed reductions to speed limits in Colac's Central Business District.*
- 2. Thanks, the submitters for their contribution to Council's consideration of this matter.*
- 3. Recommends to Council that it considers the submissions regarding the proposed reductions to speed limits in Colac's Central Business District at the 26 June 2024 Council Meeting.*

## 4. KEY INFORMATION

In response to growing concerns about pedestrian safety and the overall liveability of Colac, Council has sought public submissions to a proposal to reduce the speed limit of vehicles within the Colac CBD to 40km/h. This change aims to enhance the safety for pedestrians, cyclists, and motorists alike, fostering a more pedestrian-friendly environment while accommodating traffic flow through the Colac town centre. It is an initiative that was recommended in the Colac CBD and Entrances Project that was adopted by Council in 2012.

The Colac CBD is defined as the area bounded by Skene Street, Dennis Street, Queen Street, Rae Street, Gellibrand Street, Corangamite Street, Miller Street and Scott Street, as shown in Figure 1. The speed of traffic on Murray Street within this section of the road and adjoining streets is generally 50 km/hr. The proposal would reduce this limit to 40km/hr and include the establishment of new signage for this purpose. It is intended that the speed limit on Murray Street itself would be a variable limit, with a 50 km/hr limit being retained in the evening when traffic volumes and pedestrian activity is low.



**Figure 1 – Colac CBD**

Eight submissions were received from the community. Full copies of these are included within the Confidential attachment to this report. As noted above, all submissions support the overall principle of reducing the speed limit as proposed, with three submitters suggested that the speed limit reduction should be extended to include the areas around schools, childcare centres, sporting venues and aged care centres/homes. This issue will be addressed when a report is presented to Council for a decision on the proposal.

## 5. CONSIDERATIONS

### **Overarching Governance Principles** (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

This report is consistent with the Governance Principles by supporting verbal presentations to Council from submitters to the proposed speed change. Community engagement and transparency in decision making are key elements of the principles. The proposed reduction of the speed limit in the Colac CBD would enhance the safety of all road users.

### **Policies and Relevant Law** (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)

The proposal to reduce the speed limit in the Colac CBD is supported in law by the applicable rules in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017* that are prescribed under the *Road Safety Act 1986*.

### **Environmental and Sustainability Implications** (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020)

Not applicable.

### **Community Engagement** (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)

The speed limit change was placed on public exhibition for six weeks after formal consideration by Council at its meeting on 28 February 2024. The closing date for written submissions was 19 April 2024. Notices were placed in the Colac Herald and promoted on social media and media release. Specific stakeholders were also advised in writing.

### **Public Transparency** (s58 LGA 2020)

Public transparency has been ensured through undertaking community engagement on the speed limit change proposal and allowing public presentation to Council of submissions before a final decision of Council.

### **Alignment to Plans and Strategies**

#### Alignment to Council Plan 2021-2025:

The speed change initiative supports Council's 2023-2024 Annual Plan, specifically:

- Priority 1.3.2 - Deliver improvements to Colac and Apollo Bay CBD's to support their role as a hub for commerce, tourism, and the community.
- Priority 1.4.3 - Work with our community to promote our towns as places to stop, visit and explore.
- Priority 2.5.1 - Maintain road and drainage assets to ensure they are safe and reliable
- Priority 3.2.1 - Provide safe, inclusive, accessible, and integrated transport networks that support active transport

As noted above, the proposed speed reduction is an initiative that was recommended in the Colac CBD and Entrances Project that was adopted by Council in 2012.

### **Financial Management** (s101 Local Government Act 2020)

The Department of Transport and Planning (DTP) has allocated funds for implementation of new speed reduction signage required to implement the change.

### **Service Performance** (s106 Local Government Act 2020)

The proposal would not have any impact on Council's service performance.

**Risk Assessment**

This proposal would serve to enhance the safety of all road users.

**Communication/Implementation**

A report will be presented to the 26 June 2024 Council meeting for formal consideration of the submissions, seeking a resolution on whether to proceed with the speed limit change. Should the proposal be supported, Council would liaise with DTP which would need to formally declare the new speed limit and the area to which it applies.

**Human Rights Charter**

No impact.

**Officer General or Material Interest**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

**Options**

Not applicable.

Item: 8.3

## Submissions to the proposed Kennett River Speed Limit Changes

<b>OFFICER</b>	Kanishka Gunasekara
<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Doug McNeill
<b>DIVISION</b>	Infrastructure and Operations
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	Nil

### 1. PURPOSE

To provide an opportunity for submitters to the proposed introduction of a speed limit change/shared pedestrian zone in Kennett River to verbally present their submissions to Council.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council sought submissions from the public in March/April 2024 relating to a proposal to introduce a shared zone speed limit in sections of Grey River Road, Hawdon Avenue, the Kafe Koala roundabout, and the access road to the Kennett River Nature Walk car park in Kennett River. The proposal involves establishing a zone for a 20km/h speed limit for vehicles and allowing pedestrians to use the road carriageway on a shared basis with vehicles.

Twenty-two submissions were received with all but four of these indicating that they do not support the proposal. At the time of writing this report two submitters had requested to speak to their submission. It is proposed that the submissions will be formally considered at a Council meeting in the coming months.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

***That the Submissions Committee:***

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions regarding the proposed reductions to speed limits in Kennett River.***
- 2. Thanks, the submitters for their contribution to Council's consideration of this matter.***
- 3. Recommends to Council that it considers the submissions regarding the proposed reductions to speed limits in Kennett River at the 26 June 2024 Council Meeting.***

### 4. KEY INFORMATION

Council has been in discussions for many months with a range of stakeholders including Department of Transport and Planning (DTP), Great Ocean Road Coast and Parks Authority (GORCAPA), Parks Victoria and local resident groups concerning issues raised with pedestrian safety in the central part of Kennett River close to the Koala Cafe and caravan park.

Whilst funding allocated from the Federal and State Governments to the City Deals Program for Kennett River (being delivered by GORCAPA) aims to improve road safety in this area, the delivery of works under that project are not yet fully defined and will take some time to occur on the ground. The Authority is currently undertaking community engagement and finalising a Master Plan for the area that will influence the design of City Deal funded traffic management works.

In response however to growing concerns about the short term safety of vehicles and pedestrians, particularly in Grey River Road, Council has proposed the introduction of a shared zone for vehicles and pedestrians in sections of Grey River Road, Hawdon Avenue, the roundabout at Kafe Koala, and the access road to the Kennett River Nature Walk Car Park. This would involve the introduction of a 20km/h speed limit for vehicles, and the ability for pedestrians to walk along the road carriageways.

This shared zone would prioritise the safety of all road users, including pedestrians, cyclists, cars, and buses, by creating a shared space where vehicles must give way to pedestrians and cyclists with equal rights to the road. The current speed limit within the town is 50 km/hr.

The sections of roadway included in the proposal are shown in Figure 1.

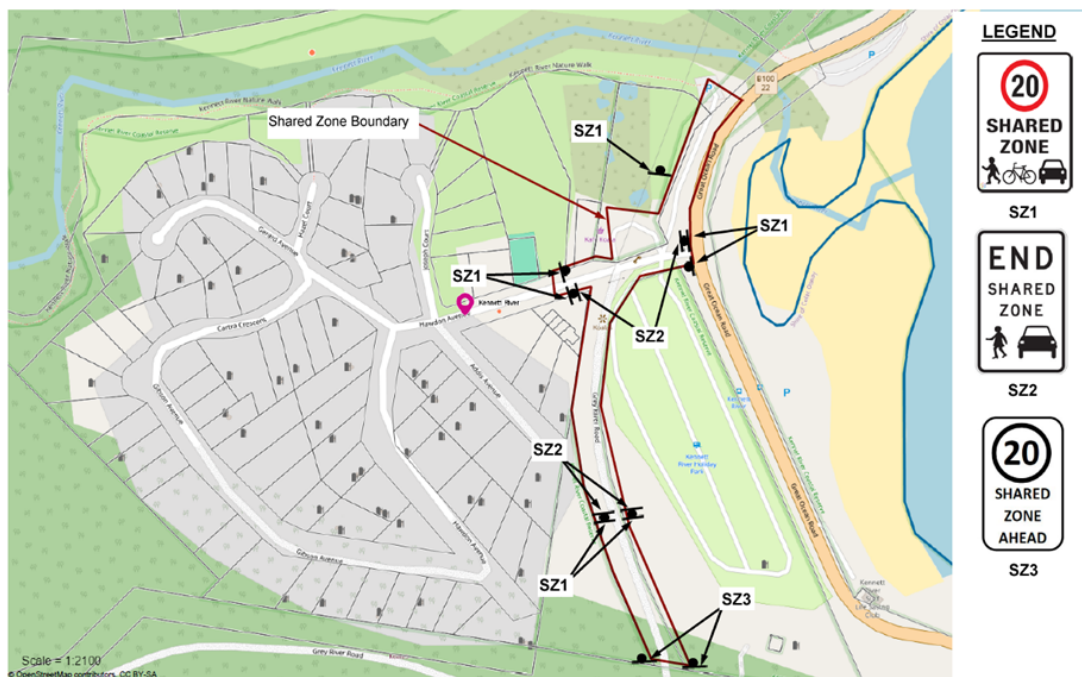


Figure 1 – Kennett River Shared Zone Proposal

Twenty-two submissions were received. Full copies of these are included within the Confidential attachment to this report.

All but four of the submissions have opposed the proposed speed limit change. Three of the submitters made their own individual response whilst also including their response under the auspice of a submission by a community group.

The issues raised in submissions will be fully addressed when a report is presented to Council for a decision on the proposal. It is likely this will be the July or August meeting given additional traffic counts are currently being undertaken to provide updated data on traffic movements and vehicle speed within the precinct at different times of the day. This data will assist in the assessment of the merits of the proposal.

## 5. CONSIDERATIONS

### Overarching Governance Principles (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

This report is consistent with the Governance Principles by supporting verbal presentations to Council from submitters to the proposed speed change. Community engagement and transparency in decision making are key elements of the principles. The proposed reduction of the speed limit in Kennett River would enhance the safety of all road users including pedestrians.

### Policies and Relevant Law (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)

The proposal to reduce the speed limit in Kennett River is supported in law by the applicable rules in the *Road Safety Road Rules 2017* that are prescribed under the *Road Safety Act 1986*.



## **Environmental and Sustainability Implications (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020**

Not applicable.

## **Community Engagement (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)**

The speed limit change was placed on public exhibition for six weeks after formal consideration by Council at its meeting on 28 February 2024. The closing date for written submissions was 19 April 2024. Notices were placed in the Colac Herald and the Apollo Bay Newsheet and promoted on social media and by media release. Specific stakeholders were also advised in writing, including the two community groups representing Kennett River residents.

## **Public Transparency (s58 LGA 2020)**

Public transparency has been ensured through undertaking community engagement on the speed limit change proposal and allowing public presentation to Council of submissions before a final decision of Council.

## **Alignment to Plans and Strategies**

### Alignment to Council Plan 2021-2025:

The speed change initiative supports Council's 2023-2024 Annual Plan, specifically:

- Priority 1.4.3 - Work with our community to promote our towns as places to stop, visit and explore.
- Priority 2.5.1 - Maintain road and drainage assets to ensure they are safe and reliable
- Priority 3.2.1 - Provide safe, inclusive, accessible, and integrated transport networks that support active transport

## **Financial Management (s101 Local Government Act 2020)**

There would be minor costs associated with line marking and installation of street signs to implement any speed limit change. Some of these costs may be paid by DTP, and the balance by Council within its operation budget.

## **Service Performance (s106 Local Government Act 2020)**

The proposal would not have any impact on Council's service performance.

## **Risk Assessment**

The proposed shared pedestrian zone and reduced speed limit is aimed at reducing the risk of injury to drivers, pedestrians, and other road users in Kennett River.

## **Communication/Implementation**

A report will be presented to a future Council meeting for formal consideration of the submissions, seeking a resolution on whether to proceed with the speed limit change. Should the proposal be supported, Council would liaise with DTP which would need to formally declare the new speed limit and the area to which it applies.

## **Human Rights Charter**

No impact.

## **Officer General or Material Interest**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

## **Options**

Not applicable.

Item: 8.4

## Submissions to the Draft Budget 2024-25 and Draft Fees and Charges for 2024-25

<b>OFFICER</b>	Toni Uphill
<b>GENERAL MANAGER</b>	Andrew Tenni
<b>DIVISION</b>	Corporate Services
<b>ATTACHMENTS</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees for 2024-25 [8.4.1 - 9 pages]</li><li>2. Organisation Submission to Draft Budget and Fees for 2024-25 [8.4.2 - 1 page]</li></ol>

### 1. PURPOSE

To hear from submitters who have requested to speak in support of their submissions and to receive written submissions to the 2024-2025 Draft Budget including 2024-2025 Fees and Charges.

### 2. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Council endorsed the Draft Budget 2024-25 and Draft Fees and Charges at its meeting on 24 April 2024. These documents were published in the Council website, Colac Herald, Apollo News and local papers from 26 April 2024 to 31 May 2024. The public exhibition period was also communicated through various networks and to key users including Bluewater Leisure Centre customers to promote public feedback.

A total of 60 written submissions were received in response to the exhibition of the Draft 2024-2025 Council Budget including the 2024-2025 Fees and Charges.

An organisation submission has also been made to outline the have been identified during the exhibition period and need to be considered.

In addition to lodging a written submission, submitters may request to speak to their submission prior to Council considering the Annual Budget. Ten submitters have requested to speak to their submissions.

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

***That the Submissions Committee:***

- 1. Receives and notes the submissions regarding the Draft Budget 2024-25 and Draft Fees and Charge for 2024-25.***
- 2. Thanks, the submitters for their submissions.***
- 3. Recommends that Council considers the submissions at the 26 June 2024 Council Meeting when considering the adoption of the 2024-25 Budget including 2024-25 Fees and Charges.***

### 4. KEY INFORMATION

As its meeting on Wednesday 24 April 2024, Council resolved to schedule a Submissions Committee meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2024, commencing at 4pm at the Colac Otway Performing Arts and Cultural Centre, to provide the opportunity for any person wishing to speak to their written submission to be heard, or a nominated representative to speak to their submission on half of the person.

A listing of the written submissions received from the community is attached (refer to Attachment 1).

Several submissions received had common themes, while others were quite individual. A summary is provided below:

- 11 submissions were received in support of the funding for the Kennett River Surf Life Saving Club.
- 11 Submissions requested that Council replace the permanent overhead hoist at the Bluewater Leisure Centre (BWLC).
- Four submissions received in support of the funding for the Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Backup system maintenance contribution.
- Five submissions related to footpaths or drainage.
- Two submissions advocate for reducing employee costs.
- Four submissions relate to fees, with a detailed submission for Saleyards fees.
- One submission requested more funding for climate change initiatives as per the adopted Climate Change Action Plan, while another submission requested that Council not fund climate-related matters such as carbon offset or the electrification of BWLC.
- About a third of submission relate to specific matters rather than common themes.

The organisation has continued to review the draft documents, and some external matters have arisen since the endorsement of the Draft Budget 2024-25 and associated draft fees and charges. Some of these matters require adjustments to be made in the final Budget 2024-25 presented for adoption. For transparency to the community, these changes are presented as the Organisation Submission and is attached (refer to Attachment 2).

## 5. CONSIDERATIONS

### Overarching Governance Principles (s(9)(2) LGA 2020)

A number of relevant governance principles under S(9)(2) of the LGA 2020 apply to this report, including:

- a) Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law:
  - i. The Draft Budget 2024-25 has been:
    - developed in accordance with the financial management principles as outlined in Section 101 of LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy (S96 LGA 2020),
    - developed to ensure that it gives effect to the Council Plan (S94(2) LGA 2020),
    - prepared in compliance with the 2.75% average rate cap set by the State Government for the 2024-25 financial year (S94(3) LGA 2020),
    - prepared to include commentary in the description and funding of services in the budget and major initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of one of the four Strategic Objectives Council Plan 2021-2025 (S94(2) LGA 2020),
    - prepared in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report (LGMFR) in accordance with the regulations, and
    - developed and prepared in accordance with a rigorous schedule, discussions with Councillors through 2024 as the Draft Budget was developed, a community engagement process prior to consideration by Council for adoption by 30 June (S94(1) LGA 2020).
- b) Priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations:
  - i. Commentary is included in section 2 of the Draft Budget on how the allocation of financial resources to services and initiatives in the budget will achieve the Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025.
- c) The ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured:
  - i. The budget forecasts have been updated to provide:
    - a meaningful projection of Council's long term financial position and provide a current understanding of Council's ongoing financial viability, and
    - Financial indicators that describe Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators.
- d) Regional, state, and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making:
  - i. Budget allocations include available funding opportunities for initiatives and capital works that will contribute to the achievement of Council's Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025, if known at the time of preparation of the budget, and
- e) The transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured:
  - i. Council's Community Engagement Policy is applied to the Council budget development, including Council Fees and Charges.
  - ii. Statutory fees and charges, which are set by the State Government, are also included in the budget process alongside Council fees and charges to ensure transparency of all fees

and charges collected by the Council. Statutory fees and charges applicable from 1 July 2024 are subject to a separate State Government review process and may therefore change.

- iii. The standard public exhibition period of six weeks in the Community Engagement Policy is proposed to be reduced to a period of 5 weeks to ensure sufficient time to adopt the budget by 30 June 2024 in accordance with the requirement of Section 94(1) of LGA 2020.

#### **Policies and Relevant Law (s(9)(2)(a) LGA 2020)**

In relation to the Budget, Council has specific obligations under the following sections of the LGA 2020:

- Section 94 – The Budget
- Section 95 – Revised Budget
- Section 96 – Preparation of budget and revised budget.

Section 94 requires that:

- (a) A Council must prepare and adopt a budget for each financial year and the subsequent 3 financial years by 30 June each year.
- (b) The budget must give effect to the Council Plan and contain a list of prescribed information, which is in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report (LGMFR) in accordance with the regulations.
- (c) If Council determines to apply a rate increase above the average rate cap for the financial year, the budget must contain a statement that Council intends to apply for an increase above the average rate cap, or is waiting for the outcome of an application, or specify any approved average rate cap that applies.

Section 95 requires that a Council must prepare and adopt a revised budget before the Council can make a variation to the declared rates or charges, undertake any borrowings not previously approved in the budget, or where Council considers a change to the budget should be the subject of community engagement.

In addition, Part 4 – Division 4 of the Act requires Council to implement the prescribed financial management principles in undertaking their duties. Section 96 specifically state that:

- a) the financial management principles: and
- b) its community engagement policy.

#### **Environmental and Sustainability Implications (s(9)(2)(c) LGA 2020)**

The Draft Budget, and subsequent 3 financial years, must reflect the objectives of the Council Plan. Therefore, the resources allocated to environmental, social, cultural and economic issues must be considered as part of the process. Section 2 of the Draft Budget outlines the activities and initiatives under major service categories that will be delivered to contribute to the achievement of one of the four Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025.

#### **Community Engagement (s56 LGA 2020 and Council's Community Engagement Policy)**

In 2021, Colac Otway Shire Council adopted the community vision and Council Plan 2021-2025 with the support and collaboration of its community.

Due to the time constraints in ensuring the budget is adopted by 30 June 2024, it is proposed that the Draft Budget 2024-25, including the Draft 2024-25 Fees and Charges, be placed on public exhibition for a period of five weeks. During this time submissions will be invited to be considered by Council.

### **Public Transparency (s58 LGA 2020)**

Public notice was given via Council's website, local newspapers and social media following Council's endorsement of the Draft Budget 2024-2025, including the Draft 2024-2025 Fees and Charges, on 26 April 2024, in accordance with Council's Community Engagement Policy. The public notice informed the community that Council had prepared the Draft Budget 2024-2025, including the Draft Fees and Charges, for public exhibition for a period of five weeks.

Copies of the Draft Budget were made available to view on Council's website at [www.colacotway.vic.gov.au](http://www.colacotway.vic.gov.au) or in person at Council's Customer Service Centres in Colac (2-6 Rae Street) or Apollo Bay (100 Great Ocean Road).

At the 24 April 2024 Council meeting, Council also scheduled a Submissions Committee meeting on Wednesday 12 June 2024, to provide the opportunity for any person to speak to their written submission or a nominated representative to speak to their submission.

### **Alignment to Plans and Strategies**

Alignment to Council Plan 2021-2025:

Theme 4 – Strong Leadership and Management

Objective 1: We commit to a program of best practice and continuous improvement

Objective 2: We are a financially robust organisation

Objective 4: We support and invest in our people

### **Financial Management (s101 Local Government Act 2020)**

S96 of the LGA 2020 specifies that Council must develop the budget in accordance with the financial management principles outlined in S101 of the LGA 2020. The budget has been prepared in the form set out in the Local Government Model Financial Report (LGMFR), in accordance with the regulations. This presentation aims to assist the reader to understand how the following financial management principles have been considered in preparation of the budget:

- (a) revenue, expenses, assets, liabilities, investments, and financial transactions must be managed in accordance with a Council's financial policies and strategic plans,
- (b) financial risks must be monitored and managed prudently having regard to economic circumstances (financial risks include any risk relating to the financial viability of the Council, the management of current and future liabilities of the Council and the beneficial enterprises of the Council,
- (c) financial policies and strategic plans, including the Revenue and Rating Plan, must seek to provide stability and predictability in the financial impact on the municipal community, and
- (d) accounts and records that explain the financial operations and financial position of the Council must be kept.

Specifically, the budget document includes commentary on:

- (a) how the budget is guided by the Revenue and Rating Plan, Workforce Plan and Long Term Financial Plan to enable the priorities identified within the Council Plan 2021-2025 to be achieved,
- (b) the description and funding of services in the budget and the major initiatives that will contribute to the achievement of one of the four Strategic Objectives in the Council Plan 2021-2025,

- (c) three year projections developed based on assumptions developed in the Long Term Financial Plan, which was adopted by Council on 27 October 2021, to provide a meaningful projection of Council's long term financial position and provide a current understanding of Council's ongoing financial viability, and
- (d) financial indicators that describe Council's current and projected performance across a range of key financial performance indicators.

**Service Performance** (s106 *Local Government Act 2020*)

Not applicable.

**Risk Assessment**

The budget process must comply with a rigorous schedule to ensure the budget meets the statutory requirements outlined in this report, including final adoption by Council of the budget by 30 June. As a consequence, the standard public exhibition period of six weeks has been reduced to a period of five weeks (as provided for in Council's Community Engagement Policy), to ensure sufficient time to adopt the budget by 30 June 2024.

The financial sustainability of the Council over the long term has been a focus of this budget and Council is committed to address these challenges. Without important changes to Council's service offering and delivery models, future years will also present deficits and erode Council's ability to support the community in the future.

**Communication/Implementation**

Following the Submissions Committee meeting, the Budget and Fees and Charges will be presented to Council for consideration and adoption at its meeting scheduled to be held on Wednesday 26 June 2024. Following adoption, these documents will be uploaded to Council's website.

**Human Rights Charter**

No impact.

**Officer General or Material Interest**

No officer declared an interest under the *Local Government Act 2020* in the preparation of this report.

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
1	1	Request to seal Harris Road, Elliminyt	I would like the west end of Harris Rd, Elliminyt, (the dirt/dusty and continually corrugated section), sealed. Harris Rd, (west end as above), has become a very popular road for all vehicles. Harris Rd, has become a short-cut to travel across to the other side of Elliminyt. During the warmer months the dust that is generated from this road is a major problem for all that live in this vicinity.	Yes
2	2	Remove budget allowance for carbon credits and Bluewater Leisure Centre electrification project.	Removal of any money wasted on climate change carbon credits, loan for Bluewater fitness centre electrification project etc. The current Bluewater fitness centre has heating is not broken so why waste money on a problem that does not exist. Australia emits less than 2% of the world's carbon emissions and Colac Otway shire would be a tiny tiny drop in the ocean of that 2% so why waste ratepayers money on this	No
3	3	Birregurra BMX Pump Track project	I would like Council to set aside an amount of up to \$10,000 to allow for the development of a detailed plan for a BMX Pump Track behind the Skate Park in Birregurra. The Birregurra Community Group has already committed \$4,000 to get plans to scope the work. A BMX Pump Track is something that would be a great asset, not just for our community but the region. We missed out in a recent submission because our plans were not up to the detail required. If we are "shovel ready" then we stand a much stronger chance of delivering this project.	Yes
4	4	Request increase in funding for footpaths and drainage.	If the Colac Otway Shire Council does not vastly increase its annual spending on footpaths and drainage the prospect of the council introducing the Colac 2050 growth plan are negligible. Since we are long overdue for another very major flood in Colac region. As they are normal well under 10 years apart. Plus it is now over 12 years since the last major flood.	No
5	4	Query regarding funding for footpaths	Of the proposed spend by the Colac Otway Shire Council in the budget for 2024-2025 to spend on footpaths? What length of council controlled footpaths will this renew in the full year in meters? Against what is the total length in meters of council controlled footpaths in this shire. Plus how many years would it take this council to renew at least once all council controlled footpaths in this shire.	Yes
6	4	Query regarding funding for drainage.	How much does the Colac Otway Shire Council propose to spend in the 2024-2025 financial year to upgrade this councils drainage system and renew long neglected old drainage network in urban areas? We are sick of hearing about drainage systems are too small to cater for a sudden rain event. In area this council has allowed to be residential areas. That includes some in very well known flood zones.	No
7	4	Query regarding Waste Charge	Since the Colac Otway Shire Council has already let it be known that the councils garbage collections of recyclables and glass only has fallen since the introduction of the state payment for items left at collection points for the container deposit scheme. Is the council going to give a definite guarantee that due to the very high increase proposed in the 2024-2025 budget for garbage collection fees at the inflation rate plus about 10%. The council will never reduce the frequency of service and justify this very high increase in cost.	No
8	4	Query regarding funding for municipal fee.	Was the omission of any mention of the municipal fee being mentioned in the council agenda for the council meeting on 24-4-24. Just some one forgot to mention this or was this deliberate so council could shift all its capped charges onto the rate charges. If a manoeuvre it will see some paying far more in rates than if the municipal fee was charged. This will impact very much on all with high value rateable properties. i.e many businesses almost all who carry on farming operations and others with high value properties. All ratepayers are not fooled but the persistency deletion of matters from council agendas.	No



## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
9	4	Query regarding Australia Post charges for 2024 Election	When officers did the calculations to prepare the 2024-25 council budget did they take into account the Australian Post charges that were effective from 1 April 2024 when estimating the costs to conduct the 2024 council elections? Since letter post was delayed in delivery times to delivery letters. Plus the letter posting rates went up 25% Or will council have to prepare another budget or make extra funds transfers to allow for these extra expenses?	No
10	5	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	The Colac Otway Shire and Bluewater Leisure Centre have decommissioned the overhead tracking that is needed to support any person with disability access issues. Instead, the Shire is advising that a mobile hoist is available at the centre for use. I would like the Colac Otway Shire to consider the following participants in wheelchairs or with major mobility issues. Colac Otway Shire has a large number of people with disabilities and disability service providers. Blue Water Leisure Centre has a hydrotherapy pool that is vital to any person with mobility issues and carers and Service Providers have all raised concerns about the lack of space in the change rooms to use the mobile hoists safely. A mobile hoist is a secondary option in all community centres and used usually, in circumstances where a hoist is temporarily out of use. A ceiling hoist is the preferred option to promote safe handling practices and therefore should be replaced at the Blue Water Leisure Centre.	No
11	6	Request for various elements for Apollo Bay including streetlights, designated bus parking and a public change table.	To ensure safety I'd like streetlights between the rec reserve and Marengo beach We need a designated bus parking in town as they park everywhere and cause much inconvenience We need a public change table in toilet block near playground. Apollo Bay is set up for old people. We can't even have a baby in our hospital or even respite after baby It's depressing for most as there is nothing here for them	Yes
12	7	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	I support the draft budget of \$61,000.00 (page 68) to Life Saving Victoria as long as it is directly tied to support evenly the Kennett River, Wye River and Apollo Bay Surf Lifesaving Clubs and not into a general pool of funds. Lifesaving is a critical need in the Colac Otway Shire, specifically the Great Ocean Road with more and more tourists being encouraged to visit . It is the worst drownings since 2001 - between December 1st 2023 and 29th February 2024 there has been a 23% increase in drowning deaths in Victoria.	No
13	8	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	Kennett river desperately needs surf lifesavers during peak periods. I know of two separate rescues by local people since Christmas. One included two young girls and their mother. It is a dangerous surf beach and with increasing visitors to the coast more support is needed	No
14	9	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	Kennett River has had several near drownings this summer alone. It's imperative for the safety of our locals and the current influx of visitors that we have a patrolled beach during the summer and extended months. Funding will save lives.	No
15	10	SuComment about the merits of fixed and mobile hoists at the Bluewater Leisure Centre.	The portable hoist was to be available as a short term fix to allow all of our disabled clients who were missing out to regain access to the pool not a permanent solution to faulty equipment. More detail provided in full in submission, however key comments include: 1.Fixed ceiling hoists tend to experience ongoing maintenance and functionality issues in pool environments increasing unreliability and downtime for users. 2.A mobile hoist provides more flexibility for our users.	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
16	4	Request increase in funding for drainage.	<p>When will the Colac Otway Shire Council get its priorities in order? Then fix what has needed attention for a very long time. Not waste large sums of money to go to works that uses a method not yet available and no guarantee had been given that this will ever exist.</p> <p>The drainage needs urgent upgrade if Colac is not again to be isolated from the rest of this country. No more using the excuse floods only last a short period of time.</p> <p>We have had multiple themes in the past few decades when Colac has had no road access due to floods east, west and south of Colac proper.</p> <p>Safe road access to Colac is far more urgent then electrification of Bluewater.</p> <p>Council has done no major drainage in the Colac urban area since the last major flood over 10 years ago. When it knew very major works were needed then. We still have people living in this area some who can remember the very massive flood event when Lake Colac and Lake Ceeac were joined as part of a massive inland sea that lasted for months.</p> <p>That came very close to causing the cancellation of a major international sporting event to be held in the southern hemisphere for the first time. When that event was well under 100 years ago.</p> <p>Based on councils estimated savings of the Bluewater electrification goes ahead the annual savings work out at only a fraction per day of the loss to Colac. If we were to loose traffic access to Colac for only a very short time via loss of wages production and sales.</p> <p>Do not forget it is only if money is earned it can be spent to support the community and council.</p>	No
17	4	Query regarding funding for municipal fee.	<p>By what percentage did the number of properties subject to pay the municipal fee to council increase for the 2024-2025 financial year over the 2023-2024 financial year. Plus what is the actual charge to appear on rate notices for 2024-2025 going to be? The claim the gross amount will go up 2.1% has no meaning relating to properties. Because if those subject to pay the fee increased by over 2.1% we could see an actual reduction per pated property paying this fee.</p> <p>All ratepayers must be told what the individual fee will be on each property being charged this fee, not have to wait until a rate notice is received. We must know in advance so we can plan our payments.</p>	No
18	11	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	<p>There needs to be funding support for the Kennett river life saving club. It is a popular but sometimes dangerous beach. I have been a patrol member there over the past five years and because most of the life savers are sourced from campground there needs to be back up funding support.</p> <p>As per above Kennett is isolated and can't easily draw on life savers other from the campground and holiday people. The beach is crowded at peak periods and can be dangerous</p>	No
19	12	Query regarding Capital Project for Eastern Reserve oval.	<p>Just asking for clarification on a particular capital works project regarding Eastern reserve oval - Playing surface re-levelling.</p> <p>Its listed as \$60,000, what is this project?</p> <p>Is this the currently undertaken bi yearly hole filling, or an entire surface re level and grass replacement etc?</p> <p>Will this money come from councils own cash reserve or will it be using the funds from Colac Braves Baseball Club insurance claim against the batting cage that was destroyed by wild weather.</p>	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
20	13	Submission to Saleyards Fees and Charges.	<p>Saleyards 2024-2025 Fees and Charges</p> <p>Feedback from committee on Councils 2024-45 draft fees and charges:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Layout of fees and charges can be confusing and a new layout as presented to the meeting separating yard fees, agent fees and other misc. fees would be beneficial.</li> <li>-Private weigh fee may be too low at \$6.20 per head considering additional staff time required. Suggest increasing to \$8.</li> <li>-Preference not to implement a 'no sale' fee.</li> <li>-Request to increase sale fee for agents without a licence due to significant revenue opportunity for such agents. Suggestion of \$1,000 fee however final consensus was to move from \$525 to \$600.</li> <li>-Clarification on fee for weighing of store sale cattle as that is predominantly performed by agents rather than Council staff. Is this the standard weight fee, another fee or no fee charged. Seems unreasonable to charge standard weigh fee.</li> </ul>	No
21	15	Support for Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Supply maintenance support.	<p>I just wanted to applaud Council for the inclusion on page 68 for the support of backup emergency supply at Apollo Bay P-12 College of \$4,000.</p> <p>This shows great foresight and care for the vulnerable coastal communities in the event of a major disaster, such as a bushfire. We have been working on securing a grant for resilience but cannot afford all of the maintenance of this system, so the co-contribution by COS is welcome and necessary.</p>	No
22	16	Support for Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Supply maintenance support.	<p>\$4000 to Apollo Bay P-12 College for maintenance towards the battery system due to be installed as a community asset in emergency times. Further, as this is a community asset, this payment should be something included in the budget each year.</p> <p>Because this is a facility being set up for the benefit of Apollo Bay and the surrounding area in times when power is lost due to extreme weather, bushfire etc. and the school will be a place to go for shelter.</p>	No
23	17	Support for Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Supply maintenance support.	<p>I wanted to acknowledge my appreciation for the \$4000 contribution to the Back Up Emergency Power Supply for Apollo Bay in the next FY. We'd also like to see this locked in for future budgets as the back up emergency power supply is ultimately to benefit the apollo bay community.</p>	No
24	18	Request for bins at Lake Colac Foreshore.	<p>A bin to be put in down at the lake along the walking track (towards the yacht club. There is no bin available from the end of the walking track (big hill) to the curb (which is shut off). One needs to be installed in-between these areas as we want to encourage people to put rubbish in bins.</p> <p>We need to be encouraging people to b putting their rubbish in bins but cannot do this if they are not easily available. This is an environmental factor and needs to be rectified. Place one just down past the bowling club/ pier on walking track where bin truck can drive in and empty on a reg basis.</p>	No
25	19	Support for Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Supply maintenance support.	<p>Just wanted to thank the Council for supporting Apollo Bay P-12 College and the Apollo Bay community through the inclusion of \$4,000 towards the emergency back up power. This is a great initiative to improve community resilience in times of emergency.</p>	No
26	20	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	<p>I fully support the inclusion of funding for professional life saving at Kennett River Life Saving Club during the 24/25 summer period. The beach has recently had a series of water safety related incidents during periods when the beach has not been patrolled. Luckily, members of the public (surfers, etc) have mitigated a potential fatal event. Professional life saving support is crucial to securing safety of Kennett River beach.</p>	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
27	21	Query regarding Council Employee costs	I am interested to know if the ratio of Male to Female employees is correct in the budget. When I look at the org structure on the web site it looks like it is mainly males. Also I couldn't see a line in the budget for contracted employees. I thought this would be a separate line as they are often paid by invoice. Contractors usually charge a lot more than an employee. Is there a budget for catering? I have heard that the retention rate is about 50% which would be a large cost to ratepayers in farewells. I'm sure all the leadership training they are suggesting would also be catered for. Do they have a strategies in place for retaining staff and employing locals?	No
28	22	Request the Council acquire quarry at 165 Bushbys Road Barongarook.	I wish to propose the Shire consider a public acquisition overlay and the eventual purchase of the allotment known as 165 Bushbys Road Barongarook. Once purchased, the Shire may subdivide the allotment and re-sell them as Shire Rural Residential allotments. There are two reasons: 1. The Shire can correct a planning error in locating the quarry. 2. The value of the allotment is estimated at \$8M (16 remaining vegetated Hectares @ 2.5 Acres * \$500,000). Surely more valuable than the current holding income.	No
29	23	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	I understand that the 61,000 allowed in the draft budget for Life saving Victoria is worthwhile and I expect would include Wye, Kennett and Apollo. Particularly for Kennett (20,000?) which has not been funded for some years. Kennett has had several rescues this year which weren't publicised. The peak period should be looked after and Kennett has mostly Caravan Park visitors as Life Savers. Some more continuity and reliability could be achieved with some sponsored attendants	No
30	24	Request for Skenes Creek to Apollo Bay walking trail connection.	The City Deal project to achieve this connection could not be achieved. Residents, ratepayers and visitors of Skenes Creek and of Apollo Bay would benefit greatly from the provision of safe walking access into town.	No
31	25	Request for Lavers Hill playground.	A public playground in Lavers Hill. This would best be constructed on old tennis courts next to the community centre as there is a public toilet nearby. (Signage for the toilets could be improved.) Lavers Hill needs a public space for travellers to stop , rest and revive. Travelers often park in College Drive overnight and use the nature strip as a picnic area. I am getting frustrated by many who leave litter around and others who use my nature strip and front yard as a toilet.	Yes
32	26	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	I was horrified that Kennett River had no paid life guards over much of last summer. Please can council reinstate funding for this in the 2024/25 budget. To save lives.	No
33	24	Support for strategic planning projects.	I commend the Council for allocating \$200,000 to review the Apollo Bay Structure Plan and to assess future needs for housing for the community and its employees. Under 'Other Initiatives - Operational Projects' Gaming and Licensed Premises Policy – Stage 1 is mentioned. This is also of interest and I would like to know more about what it involves when the time comes.	No
34	24	Comment on performance indicator target	The only 'negative' comment I would like to make, relates to Satisfaction with Governance - the Community satisfaction rating out of 100, that is, how Council has performed in making decisions in the interests of the community. Given that the rating has been around 52, I found it surprising that the Target for 2024-2025 is just 53. And the targets for future years are not much different. I would have thought that the Council's aim would be to increase its satisfaction rating considerably more than that.	No
35	25	Request for off-lead Dog Park.	Secure Dog park development. As far as council infrastructure goes, maintenance is manageable. The best ones have two secure areas - one for larger adult dogs and one for smaller dogs and puppies. Double gates help keep things secure for all. For community members, it's a great place to meet and socialize.	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
36	21	Request for new sculptures in Sculpture Park.	I would like to see the sculpture park upgraded with new sculptures. The current sculptures are broken or very run down and an eyesore for the lovely new footpath that was placed there and BBQ area. Other towns have amazing sculptures that make you want to stop, take pictures and go for a walk. It may even encourage people to stay in the town	No
37	26	Request for footpath in Strachan Street Birregurra.	A footpath for the length of Strachan Street in Birregurra. For some years now I have put in a submission so that Council is aware of ever growing need of this footpath. Our town desperately needs footpaths and guttering with our growing population. Sadly, there is only a small amount allocated for footpaths. In a growing town like Birregurra (and other small towns) it strikes me as a glaring omission to the structure of the town but more importantly peoples safety. Cars and people are not a good mix.	No
38	27	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	Kennett River beach has a Hazard Rating of 7/10, highly hazardous. There were multiple Good Samaritan rescues there this summer, outside of patrol hours. The Shire already funds paid lifeguards at Wye River and Apollo Bay. The Shire should provide equal funding to KR as it does for other beaches.	No
39	28	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	Kennett River is a busy beach over summer with an influx of holiday makers and caravan park patrons. The highly hazardous beach at Kennett requires paid lifeguards as the small local surf club doesn't have resources for daily patrols over summer. There were record drownings this summer in Victoria.	Yes
40	29	Request for Skenes Creek to Apollo Bay walking trail connection. And completion of existing initiatives.	1) council has some funds in reserve for the apollo bay Skenes creek trail. When state government shelved the project they alluded to possible environmental issues but there is no information on exactly what those potential issues are, whether they are substantive and how they can be addressed. Council should budget to use some of this reserve to identify and document exactly what these concerns are and how they can be mitigated. And produce an advocacy document in order to help restart this project to address the road safety and tourism issues it resolves.  2) There are still outstanding commitments from last year's plan/budget. This budget needs to include funds to complete hickys trail link path at Skenes creek, restoration of marengo historic beacon which are still outstanding council commitments keenly awaited by the community  3) pleased to see council's continued commitment to the community grants program which makes sure an important contribution to strengthening the social fabric of our community.	No
41	30	Request for free use of community facilities.	That the use of all rate payer owned, council managed facilities continue to remain free to use for local sporting clubs and organisations to ensure the continued community access to low cost health and fitness activities. The continual upkeep and development of these facilities has been funded by user groups as well as smaller contributions from shire funds from ratepayers. Ratepayers within this local council area should not be required to pay twice for the use of these facilities.	No
42	31	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	I want to register my strong support for COS financial support for paid life savers on the KR beach over the Christmas period and January school holidays. This a very popular family beach, but is is often v dangerous (rated 7/10), with rips and dumping waves. The KR life saving club is small and therefore unable to cover more than the key public holidays. KR is a small town with a vastly inflated holiday population in the summer period.	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
43	32	Support for Kennett River SLSC funding.	I would like to see a significant allocation in the Budget to cover the cost of paid lifeguards at Kennett River over the Christmas School Holiday period (Christmas to New Year) 2024/25. I understand this to be approx. \$20,000. Kennett River SLC does a good job, but it is a small club and provides only a limited patrol at this busy period. Kennett River has one of the highest danger ratings of surf beaches along the coast, and numerous rescues and near rescues have been undertaken in recent years.	No
44	33	Query fee for Eastern Reserve Netball Courts	I wish to provide feedback on the latest proposed budget. I believe the \$44 charge to use the eastern reserve netball courts is unnecessary. It's a public area that anyone can use at anytime (including the homeless people who live there and use the power for free!!!) so why when a group wants to book it they then need to pay a fee??? How will you stop groups from just showing up and using the courts as they wish ? I would also like to know the reasoning behind putting these charges on the use of these courts ?	Yes
45	34	Reduce employee costs and cap Bluewater fees.	Cut the employee costs to make savings. Implement better management skills so things don't run so poorly so you don't have to keep slugging the users to make up for the pathetic management of public money and facilities. Stop putting up bluewater fees. 11.5% last year 5% this year, for what, pay more money get a worse service? Put a cap of all the user fees.	Yes
46	35	Request for funding to implement Climate Change Action Plan (CCAP).	Actions committed to in the CCAP which require clear funding in this budget include: Action 1.10 Encourage and foster urban greening. Action 1.12 Accelerate Council's Tree Planting Program (road reserves, nature strips and public open spaces) to increase urban cooling and carbon drawdown/sequestration. Action 1.14 Increase adoption of nature-based, green-blue infrastructure solutions. Action 2.2 d. Include a mechanism for refrigerant capture and recycle in future Council waste contracts. Action 3.5 Support native flora and fauna to adapt to climate change. Action 5.6 Monitor and adapt public health programs as required to respond to a changing climate and its impacts on human health and wellbeing.	Yes
47	34	Request for further explanatory commentary in budget.	More explanations on expenditure and no mistakes. Pg 30 Casual staff costs \$594K Pg 51 Casual Staff \$733K Op projects \$1.775mil What on exactly? Page 20 How does Fin Prop & Rates rev drop from \$38 mil to \$7.6 mil this year?	Yes
48	34	Request for money for a community vegetable garden.	So money can be spent on building one. Why else would you include it in the budget? Tip: if it's not in the budget you haven't allocated money for it so it couldn't be built. That's what a budget is for. Not just to make sure the management are well fed.	Yes
49	34	Reduce employee costs.	Less expenditure on staff expenses. So there is actually some rate payer money that can be spent on improving infrastructure in the shire such as a pump/bike track, cycling paths, footpaths, etc.	Yes
50	34	Request improvement to online submission form.	Some money to upgrade this ridiculous budget submission form. Why? Are you serious? It has no room to comment on the budget itself or why some items should not be included. No areas to comment on how to make things more efficient or money savings. It's loaded for people to make a wish that COS will never deliver. And has a cap on characters to type.	Yes
51	35	Support for Apollo Bay P12 Emergency Supply maintenance support.	Thank you for budgeting support for this critical infrastructure. Maintaining local infrastructure for resilience and emergency management, as identified by the Council as a priority, is critical. I hope to see continuation of this funding for ongoing maintenance of this critical infrastructure.	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
52	36	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	I am writing to request that council consider providing funding for a refurbishment of the Bluewater Leisure Centre Disability Access Change rooms and in particular making the ceiling track hoist usable again. I am a strong advocate for providing access to disabled clients in our community to be able to exercise in a safe environment. Many of my significantly disabled and wheelchair bound clients are able to move freely in the water where they are confined to a wheelchair on land and rely on hoisting with a mechanical lifting aide to be able to move on land and to be assisted with dressing, showering, toileting and of course being able to access the water wheelchairs to then be able to access the hydrotherapy pool.	Yes
53	37	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	I am a disability support worker & have been in the field for over 40 years, since before the introduction of hoists. A piece of equipment that has protected a lot of backs. My experience with mobile hoists are they are cumbersome & difficult to manoeuvre. This becomes an OH&S issue. Clients using mobile hoists often display heightened levels of anxiety compared to when using fixed ceiling track hoists. It is very sad that at a time when inclusivity is increasing everywhere, Colac Otway Shire are taking a backward step & making Blue Water Fitness Centre less accessible for people with physical disabilities. Please fund & maintain the ceiling hoist at Blue Water Fitness Centre.	No
54	38	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	I am reaching out to highlight a crucial need within our community regarding accessibility for individuals with disabilities. The installation of a ceiling hoist system is imperative to support those with limited mobility. Unlike traditional floor-based lifts, ceiling hoists utilise overhead tracks, optimising space and reducing physical strain for both support staff and the individuals.  Implementing a ceiling hoist system would significantly enhance accessibility and promote independence for people with disabilities. It would also improve overall care quality by minimising the risk of injury during transfers. I urge you to consider the importance of this matter and explore the feasibility of installing a ceiling hoist system within your facilities. Your support in this endeavour is vital to creating a more inclusive environment for all community members.	No
55	39	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	Council consider providing funding for a refurbishment of the Bluewater Leisure Centre Disability Access Change rooms and in particular making the ceiling track hoist usable again. For many people with disabilities hydrotherapy is the only way they can move and exercise safely and ideally there is an overhead ceiling hoist for transfers. This is important for people with large wheelchairs. The portable hoist is not suitable.	No
56	40	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	On behalf of resident with a disability, we submit for consideration the importance of a ceiling/overhead hoist to continue to be available at Blue Water centre. This resident, along with others in the community use Hydrotherapy as an integral part of their healthy living, requiring hoisting for regular pool therapy sessions and is often one of the only opportunities to move out of a wheelchair while out in the community. This also provides empowerment for people with disabilities to participate in their communities in a respectful and safe manner as much as they want. We are an inclusive community with opportunities for people with disabilities to fully participate in a safe environment, with safe transferring equipment available, in any chosen activities and are engaged as community members.	No

## Public Submissions to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Submission #	Submitter #	Summary of submission	Details of submission	Request to Speak?
57	41	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	Submission on behalf of resident with disability. This person lives in Colac and loves to swim – the only time they are able to move freely without Assistive Technology and the person has a large wheelchair. This person and many others in the Colac community rely on hoisting with a mechanical lifting aide to be able to move on land and to be assisted with dressing, showering, toileting and of course being able to access the water wheelchairs to then be able to access the hydrotherapy pool. We would appreciate your consideration of this request to repair or replace the ceiling hoist at Blue Water to support members of the Colac community to utilise the pool in and safe and respectful way.	No
58	42	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	Submission on behalf of residents with a disability who rely on hydrotherapy for their ongoing mobility and use hydrotherapy up to 3 times a week at Blue Water. Need a reliable overhead hoist to make this a viable use.	No
59	43	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	Submission on behalf of Colac resident with disability that uses hydrotherapy and has large wheelchair. Given the significant impact of this vital piece of equipment, we appreciate your consideration in assisting members of the Colac community to access the pool safely and respectfully.	No
60	44	Request for reinstatement of Bluewater Leisure Centre overhead hoist.	Submission on behalf of a professional working with people with disabilities in Colac who, due to the nature and severity of their disabilities, their high care needs and the OH&S risks associated with providing care to them, would be unable to access the pool without use of a ceiling hoist to enable them to safely transfer between their wheelchair, the change table and their pool chair. It is strongly recommended that refurbishment/repair of the ceiling hoist at the Bluewater Fitness Centre is carried out at the earliest convenience, to ensure that all people living with disabilities in the Colac region are able to access their local swimming pool.	No



### Organisation Submission to Draft Budget and Fees and Charges for 2024-25

Areas	Details	Fees and Charges
Non-Statutory - Public Health	<b>New Fee for "Personal Appearance Services / Skin Penetration (Tattooist, body piercing)".</b> Businesses providing this service are required by legislation to be registered and need a permit from Council. It is not proposed that the permit include a fee at this time and it is requested that the Fees and Charges schedule be updated to include the new fee at \$0 to avoid any misunderstanding.	\$0.00

Area	Details	Amount
Operational Project	<b>EDRMS Upgrade</b> Council will need to upgrade Council's Electronic Document and Records Management System (EDRMS), Content Manager version 10.1 to version 23.4 in 2024-25. This project is non-discretionary as it is needed to maintain version currency for support and also enable the integration of other systems. Other projects funded in 2024-25 are dependent on this EDRMS upgrade.	\$ 40,000
Operational Project	<b>Aged Care Reforms - Implementation Project Year 1</b> Additional project funding for implementation of changes required to support the continuation of Council's Aged and Disability Services, as per Council's resolution on 22 May 2024. This is additional to the \$150k allowance in Draft Budget.	\$ 44,489
Recurrent Operations Expense Budget	<b>Aged Care Reforms - Investment to transition to new Service Delivery requirements</b> Additional recurrent funding for implementation of changes required to support the continuation of Council's Aged and Disability Services, as per Council's resolution on 22 May 2024. This investment includes greater managerial support, QA, training, IT and corporate services support.	\$ 508,907
Recurrent Operations Expense Budget	<b>Increase in Materials and Services expenses (contractors)</b> Procurement process for new Cleaning Contract has identified that new contract is likely to be at greater cost than current budget, commencing 2024-25.	\$ 175,000
Recurrent Operations Expense Budget	<b>Internal Audit Program</b> Additional funding is required to accommodate an increased number of annual audits to be undertaken and increase in allocated hours by Council's Internal Auditors. These increases are non-discretionary and also recommended by Council's Audit and Risk Committee.	\$ 30,000