

Strathbogie Shire Council

# Extraordinary Council Meeting Agenda

**Tuesday 4 June 2024**

# Agenda

## Extraordinary Council Meeting

**Tuesday 4 June 2024, at 6pm**

**Meeting to be held at the Euroa Community Conference Centre and  
livestreamed on Council's website:**

<https://www.strathbogie.vic.gov.au/council/our-council/council-meetings-and-minutes/>

**Administrator:**

Peter Stephenson

**Officers:**

Julie Salomon – Chief Executive Officer

Amanda Tingay – Director People and Governance

John Harvey – Director Sustainable Infrastructure

Rachael Frampton – Director Community and Planning

Rosemary Scott – Executive Manager Communications, Engagement and Advocacy

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## Meeting Procedure

### 1. Welcome

### 2. Acknowledgement of Country

*We acknowledge the Traditional Custodians of the places we live, work and play. We recognise and respect the enduring relationship they have with their lands and waters, and we pay respects to the Elders past, present and emerging. Today we are meeting on the lands of the Taungurung peoples of the Eastern Kulin nation, whose sovereignty here has never been ceded.*

### 3. Privacy Notice

*This public meeting is being streamed live via our website ([Council Meetings and Minutes | Strathbogie Shire](#)) and made available for public access on our website along with the official Minutes/Decisions of this meeting. All care is taken to maintain your privacy; however, as a visitor in the public gallery, it is assumed that your consent is given in the event that your image is broadcast to the public. It is also assumed that your consent is given to the use and disclosure of any information that you share at the meeting (including personal or sensitive information) to any person who accesses those recordings or Minutes.*

### 4. Governance Principles

*Council considers that the recommendations contained in this Agenda gives effect to the overarching governance principles stated in Section 9(2) of the Local Government Act 2020. These principles are as follows:*

- 1. Council decisions are to be made and actions taken in accordance with the relevant law;*
- 2. priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations;*
- 3. the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted;*
- 4. the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making;*
- 5. innovation and continuous improvement is to be pursued;*
- 6. collaboration with other Councils and Governments and statutory bodies is to be sought;*
- 7. the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured;*
- 8. regional, state and national plans and policies are to be taken into account in strategic planning and decision making;*
- 9. the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.*

### 5. Apologies / Leave of Absence

### 6. Disclosure of Conflicts of Interest

### 8. Officer Reports

- 8.1 Strategic and Statutory
- 8.2 Community
- 8.3 Infrastructure
- 8.4 Corporate
- 8.5 Governance and Customer Service
- 8.6 Executive

Julie Salomon  
**CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

31 May 2024

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<b>8.3</b>	<b>Infrastructure</b> Nil	
<b>8.4</b>	<b>Corporate</b>	
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<b>8.6</b>	<b>Executive</b> Nil	

## 8. OFFICER REPORTS

### 8.4 CORPORATE

#### 8.4.1 Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2024-25 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget and Fees and Charges

Author: Chief Finance Officer

Responsible Director: Director People & Governance

#### **EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The purpose of this report is to receive/hear submissions made under the Local Government Act 2020 (“The Act”) in relation to the Draft 2024-25 Budget and the Draft 2024-25 Fees and Charges.

At its 16 April 2024 Ordinary meeting, Council resolved to seek community comment on the draft 2024-25 Budget and Fees and Charges.

The closing date for submissions was Friday 24 May 2024 at 5.00 p.m.

There were eighteen (18) submissions received for the 2024-25 Draft Budget and four (4) submissions received for the 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges. Seven (7) submitters requested to speak to their submissions.

Copies of all submissions have been distributed to the Administrator for his information. Attachment 1 details the submissions received.

#### **RECOMMENDATION**

##### ***That Council:***

- 1. Note the eighteen (18) submissions received in response to the public advertisement of the 2024-25 Draft Budget;***
- 2. Note the four (4) submissions received in response to the public advertisement of the 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges;***
- 3. Hear those who wish to be heard in support of their written submissions; and***
- 4. Formally consider all received submissions and the adoption of the Draft 2024-25 Budget and Draft 2024-25 Fees and Charges at an Extraordinary Meeting of Council to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024 at the Euroa Community Conference Centre, commencing at 6.00 pm.***

#### **PURPOSE AND BACKGROUND**

The review of the proposed 2024-25 Budget and 2024-25 Fees and Charges was considered by Council at the Council meeting held on Tuesday 16 April 2024.

#### 8.4.1 Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2024-25 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget and Fees and Charges (cont.)

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed Budget and Fees and Charges was given in local newspapers, calling for submissions under Council's Community Engagement Policy and Section 96(1)(a) of the Act. Submissions in writing were invited until 5.00 p.m. on Friday 24 May 2024.

The proposed Budget and Fees and Charges were made available for inspection and accessible on Council's website.

##### **ISSUES, OPTIONS AND DISCUSSION**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that priority is to be given to achieving the best outcomes for the municipal community, including future generations.

At its 16 April 2024 Ordinary meeting, Council endorsed the draft 2024-25 Budget and Fees and Charges for public exhibition.

Council invited community members to make submissions to the 2024-25 Draft Budget and Fees and Charges with the closing date for submissions being 5.00 pm Friday 24 May 2024.

In their submission, submitters were able to request to appear in person (or be represented by another person) at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 4 June 2024. At the conclusion of the public exhibition process:

- Eighteen (18) submissions were received for the 2024-25 Draft Budget;
- Four (4) submissions were received for the 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges; and
- Seven (7) submitters requested to speak to their submissions.

Copies of all submissions have been distributed to the Administrator for his information. Attachment 1 details the submissions received.

Following the hearing of submissions and consideration of all submissions, Council will determine a final position at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024.

##### **COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the municipal community is to be engaged in strategic planning and strategic decision making.

Council officers created a three-stage engagement program that ensured input into every stage of the Draft Budget's development.

In stage one, we launched the innovative Pitch My Project initiative in November 2023, which allowed us to fund the projects and works that matter to our community.

**8.4.1 Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2024-25 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget and Fees and Charges (cont.)**

In stage two, a series of clear communication materials was created that provided our community with information about the Draft Budget and ensured they understood how they could have their say. For those who do not have access to the internet, we continued to seek submissions in writing.

Council’s 2024-25 Draft Budget Report, and 2024-25 Draft Fees and Charges have been on public exhibition for a period of 28 days and submissions were invited from the community.

The 2024-25 Draft Budget provides funding allocations and support for nominated projects to proceed in both operational and capital works budgets, and, where appropriate, further community consultation will occur throughout the year specific to each project.

***POLICY CONSIDERATIONS***

**Council Plans and Policies**

The Budget document provides financial resources to achieve the Council Plan objectives, deliver services to the community and provide a capital works program for the benefit of the community.

**Conflict of Interest Declaration**

No member of Council staff, or other person engaged under a contract, involved in advising on or preparing this report has declared a direct or indirect interest in relation to the matter of the report.

***RISK CONSIDERATIONS***

The following risk consideration has been identified:

<b>Risk(s)</b>	<b>Likelihood</b>	<b>Consequence</b>	<b>Rating</b>	<b>Mitigation Action</b>
Budget not adopted within statutory timeframes	Possible	Moderate	Medium	Ensure budget timetable is adhered to meet statutory timeframes

**LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS**

The draft budget 2024-25 and draft fees and charges 2024-25 have been developed in line with the *Local Government Act 2020*.

**Conflict of Interest**

All officers and/or contractors involved in the preparation of this report have signed a written declaration that they do not have a conflict of interest in the subject matter of this report.

**Transparency**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the transparency of Council decisions, actions and information is to be ensured.



#### 8.4.1 Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2024-25 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget and Fees and Charges (cont.)

The draft Budget and draft Fees and Charges will be considered by Council at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024, which will be open to the public and streamed online via Council's website.

Council's Audit and Risk Committee were presented with the range of draft budget documents at its meeting on 5 April 2024 acting in its capacity as an independent means of review, accountability and transparency.

##### **FINANCIAL VIABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the ongoing financial viability of the Council is to be ensured.

The Budget and Fees and Charges are significant documents in ensuring the financial viability of Council.

Funding provided by the Budget allows for service delivery and maintenance and upgrade of Council's asset base.

##### **SUSTAINABILITY CONSIDERATIONS**

One of the overarching governance principles in section 9 of the *Local Government Act 2020* is that the economic, social and environmental sustainability of the municipal district, including mitigation and planning for climate change risks, is to be promoted.

##### **Economic and Social**

The Budget provides funding for a range of programs which are designed to improve:

- a) sense of community – e.g. cultural activities, stakeholder participation, recognition of diversity, cultural heritage or social cohesion
- b) community services – e.g. range and quality of services for different groups (children and families, young people, elderly people and people with disabilities), accessibility of services or cost of services
- c) community health and well-being – e.g. recreation facilities, public safety, health services and facilities or public health implications
- d) transport – e.g. safety for travellers, emissions and fuel consumption, public transport usage, walking and cycling or transportation needs of all people

##### **Environmental and Climate change**

Council is mindful of the requirement under section 9(2)(c) of the 2020 Act relating to overarching governance principles to mitigate and plan for climate change risks. The Budget identifies resources to pursue actions in Council's Climate Change Action Plan.

##### **HUMAN RIGHTS CONSIDERATIONS**

There are no Human Rights considerations required as part of this report.

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8.4.1 Hearing of Submissions to Draft 2024-25 Strathbogie Shire Council Budget and Fees and Charges (cont.)

**CONCLUSION**

This meeting provides Council with the opportunity to consider submissions from community members either in writing or via hearing of the submissions prior to adopting a position to finalise the Budget and Fees and Charges at an Extraordinary Council meeting to be held on Tuesday 25 June 2024.

**ATTACHMENTS**

**Attachment 1:** Community Engagement Report: Submissions – 2024-2025 Budget

***THERE BEING NO FURTHER BUSINESS, THE MEETING CLOSED AT ..... P.M.***