



***HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
ORDINARY MEETING OF COUNCIL
MINUTES***

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2012

**TRENTHAM NEIGHBOURHOOD CENTRE
HIGH STREET
TRENTHAM
5:30PM**

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**Hepburn Shire Council
Ordinary Meeting of
Council**



MINUTES

TUESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2012

**Trentham Neighbourhood Centre
High Street, Trentham
Commencing 5:30PM**

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Hepburn Shire Council Ordinary Meeting of Council



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ARON VAN EGMOND
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER
16 OCTOBER 2012

1. ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS

We would like to acknowledge we are meeting on Jaara people country, of which members and elders of the Dja Dja Wurrung community and their forebears have been custodians for many centuries.

On this land, the Jaara people have performed age old ceremonies of celebration, initiation and renewal.

We acknowledge their living culture and their unique role in the life of this region.

2. OPENING OF MEETING

PRESENT: Mayor Councillor Sebastian Klein, Deputy Mayor Councillor Rod May, Birch Ward Councillor Jonathan Barrell, Cameron Ward Councillor Neil Newitt, Creswick Ward Councillor Janine Booth, Creswick Ward Councillor Don Henderson, Holcombe Ward Councillor Bill McClenaghan.

IN ATTENDANCE: Chief Executive Officer Aaron van Egmond, General Manager Corporate Services Evan King, General Manager Infrastructure Bruce Lucas, General Manager Sustainable Development Barry Green, General Manager Community Services Kathleen Brannigan.

STATEMENT OF COMMITMENT

“WE THE COUNCILLORS OF HEPBURN SHIRE
DECLARE THAT WE WILL UNDERTAKE ON EVERY OCCASION
TO CARRY OUT OUR DUTIES IN THE BEST INTERESTS
OF THE COMMUNITY
AND THAT OUR CONDUCT SHALL MAINTAIN THE STANDARDS
OF THE CODE OF GOOD GOVERNANCE
SO THAT WE MAY FAITHFULLY REPRESENT
AND UPHOLD THE TRUST PLACED IN THIS COUNCIL BY THE
PEOPLE OF HEPBURN SHIRE”

3. APOLOGIES

Nil

4. DECLARATIONS OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Councillor Janine Booth declared an indirect Conflict of Interest in Agenda Item 13.3 – Confidential – Contract H325-2012 – Panel of Compliant Plant Hire (Wet Hire) Contractors as family members are associated with the parent company of one of the recommended preferred contractors, Porter Plant.

5. CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

RECOMMENDATION

5.1. *That the Minutes of the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 18 September 2012 (as previously circulated to Councillors) be confirmed as required under Section 93 (2) of the Local Government Act 1989 subject to correction of the numbering for the Motion for Agenda Item 10.2.*

Moved: Councillor Neil Newitt
Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Barrell
Carried.

6. NOTICES OF MOTION

Nil

7. ITEM OF URGENT BUSINESS

PROCEDURAL MOTION

7.1. *That Council considers an Urgent Item of Confidential Business during the confidential section of the Meeting, being Item 13.6 Contract H344-2012 – Resurfacing of Sports Oval – Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve and Community Facility, Creswick.*

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Carried.

8. PRESENTATION OF COUNCILLOR REPORTS

MAYOR'S REPORT

Councillor Sebastian Klein, Coliban Ward

Well what an experience Councillors - four years older and wiser! It has been a privilege to work with all of you on behalf of our communities in all their manifestations and we have made some great inroads into community planning, youth services, sporting facilities, IT, document management with the new TechOne system, walking, cycling and procurement.

We also have a much better idea of where we have ground to make up in asset management, better community consultation, business planning and project management.

We have seen three CEOs, a number of General Managers, completed our first multi-million dollar project and won state and federal funding for our second one. After all this, I am confident that we have now achieved a stable professional operational team who are committed to a learning, performing organisation given to improving the processes and functions at the heart of the 60-odd services we provide to our communities.

For my own part as a councillor, I have been grateful for the way my community has engaged with me and believed in me as councillor and it is with some warmth that I look back on the past four years.

Attending the Daylesford Debutante Ball, helping select the Trentham Lions Club Young achiever and the Daylesford U3A remind me that we have an enormously capable community with great potential to work with; an advantage that I hope council can utilise and emphasise in coming years.

While the past month has also included normal mayoral duties like a Rural Councils Victoria meeting, meeting with Simon Ramsay MLC, The Hon Catherine King MP, and the City of Ballarat to talk about bio energy in the region.

For a full run down of my activities, please see my written councillor report provided for the Minutes.

For my part, highlights of the past four years include the return of the Jubilee Lake Caravan Park to community management, the building of the Daylesford Community Park and playground, the writing of our Walking and Cycling Strategy, Environmental Sustainability Strategy and the Community Energy Resilience Strategy, which Council has before it tonight. This last one is an example of the quality of work that we can facilitate through working closely with and empowering our communities.

And finally, I would like to thank all of the Councillors for their efforts and support, including Tim Hayes who is of course not on Council any more. I would like to acknowledge Crs Booth and May who are not in the running in the current elections and wish all other candidates good luck and may the new council see increasing and improving service to our community.

Mayoral activities:

- Rural Councils Victoria - 2 year plan, Annual Report
- Met with Simon Ramsay MLC, Member for Western Victoria
- Daylesford Community Debutante Ball
- Trentham Lion's Club Young Achiever Award panel
- Met with the CEO and Chair of Daylesford & Macedon Ranges Regional Tourism Board.
- Trentham Business and Tourism Association
- Met Eric Brassilis and Ian Rossiter from City of Ballarat regarding their plans and ambitions for bio energy and the wider regional perspective on this important field of economic and environmental development
- Met The Hon Catherine King MP with the CEO
- Met with Matt Gordon from *OurSay*
- Trentham Neighbourhood Centre Executive Committee
- U3A Annual General Meeting
- Attended the 2012 Central Highlands BioEnergy Expo
- Met with Rahills Road property owners and Planning Department
- Interviewed by Deakin University medical students on community character, issues and matters
- Presented to Leadership Ballarat and Western Region members during their Hepburn Shire Tourism Program.
- Met with Andrew Lucas from Transition Consulting regarding input into an energy transition website supported by the Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV).

COUNCILLOR REPORTS

Councillor Jonathan Barrell, Birch Ward

Wombat Hill Botanical Gardens Advisory Committee has not met formally this month due to lack of quorum. The 150th birthday steering group have provisionally set Saturday 11 May 2013 for a major celebratory event.

ARC Advisory Committee. No meeting this month.

Daylesford & Macedon Ranges Regional Tourism Board. I have been appointed to DMRT Risk Audit & Finance Sub-Committee which held its 1st meeting 25 September 2012. I also attended a DMRT supported briefing by the CEO of Melbourne Airport Corporation (Tullamarine) in Woodend on 11 October /2012 where we heard of their growth projections including new Chinese airlines to use Melbourne as their Australian base, and their aspirations for new infrastructure and transport projections. DMRT briefed him regarding their 'turn left' goal to encourage visitors to turn left up the Calder Highway to Daylesford Macedon Ranges.

The Daylesford Streetscape Revitalisation Project. The steering Committee has not met this month.

The Victoria Park Multi Purpose Facility Consortium. A review of the Victoria Park Association's Feasibility Study by Pitcher Partners was discussed on 20 September 2012 and I anticipate a report to Council.

Municipal Early Years Plan Steering Group held its 2nd meeting today. There are many statistics to demonstrate that Hepburn's children are at risk of suffering significant disadvantage. We discussed a range of initiatives to better nurture Hepburn's children and the Steering Group's work will continue.

Stanbridge Jinker Project Group has not met this month.

On 21 September 2012 with Mayor Klein, Cr Newitt and officers, I met with Mr Simon Ramsay MLC and was able to brief him on the proposed Victoria Park Multi Purpose Facility and the opportunities to improve access for hydrotherapy at Hepburn Bathhouse for persons of all abilities.

Councillor Rod May, Birch Ward

21/09/2012 Hosted **Chinese Delegation from Benxi**

The Shire should press ahead with hosting more delegations to engage with China.

27/09/2012 Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve Advisory Committee

Petrus Spronk generously agreed to donate a series of porcelain tiles to be placed at the Sound Shell.

The Committee has also considered the use of the empty Caretaker's Cottage by Visiting Artists. This will come to Council for consideration.

The number one project priority for the Committee is for a new walking bridge over stream between the Hepburn Bathhouse and the road.

8/10/2012 Mount Alexander Shire Food Hub – discussed importance of local food supply and development of food hub.

13/10/2012 Jubilee Lake Caravan Park Co-operative Annual General Meeting – Fifty co-operative members attended the meeting. The Park is booked until well into the New Year. New cabins are coming in and fire regulation requirements have been met. The Co-operative believes it will be able to meet its commitment to Council within four years.

I am pleased to report that it was a great decision of this Council to lease the Jubilee Lake Caravan Park to a co-operative.

Councillor Neil Newitt, Cameron Ward

No report to present this month.

Councillor Janine Booth, Creswick Ward

No report to present this month.

Councillor Don Henderson, Creswick Ward

During the past month I have attended all statutory meetings as well as briefings. I also attended the Creswick Ward Community Committee and the Recreation Advisory Committee.

I had the privilege to be invited as an ex-President of the Ballarat Trades and Labour Council to a civic reception hosted by the City of Ballarat to mark 150 years of the Trades and Labour Council operation in the region. Mayor Cr

Mark Harris acknowledged the terrific work and contribution made to the lives of working people in the region.

HMAS Ballarat crew also came to Creswick to assist young people build a new cubby hut when the Council pulled down the one that they built in an inappropriate place. This was a great opportunity for young people to meet some of our serving Navy personnel.

Councillor Bill McClenaghan, Holcombe Ward

In the past month, I have attended the second and final Municipal Association of Victoria (MAV) State Council for the year in Melbourne. The local government sector is now significantly challenged by several precipitous issues:

- Ongoing crushing superannuation liability.
- Constitutional recognition.
- Collection of the Fire Services Levy as a State Government tax, to be levied with Council rates.
- Further cost shifting onto local government EG control of roadside weeds and pest animals.
- Ongoing funding issues, decreasing in real terms.

I also attended a meeting of the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve Special Committee where there are ongoing flood recovery issues still outstanding. The greatest problem is the upgrade of a totally inadequate septic toilet field, in a trench just metres from the Loddon River; a sensitive issue considering the need to protect potable water catchments but also to provide basic facilities in the reserve.

This week is *Anti-Poverty Week* and activities are under way in Daylesford as we speak. Numerous community service groups and welfare agencies are all working together to operate a food tent and information stand in the Council's car park next to the Visitor Information Centre. Getting so many groups and organisations working together on a project like this is a real win for community strengthening. Those involved include Daylesford Food Share, the 5,000 Club, Daylesford Rotary, Child and Family Services (CAFS), St. Vincent de Paul and Hepburn Health Service, supported by Hepburn Shire Council and sponsored by Senator John Madigan.

Every working day evening this week from 6.00 to 8.00 pm, free, fresh cooked food will be available to all comers as well as information on strategies to combat poverty. Hepburn Shire has a greater food security problem than most

other areas in Victoria with over 10% of our people suffering from regular food security issues (not having enough to eat).

And speaking of food security, Council may be interested to know of a report presented in the current *Weekly Times* about a large Chinese buyer set to take control of one of Australia's largest fresh food suppliers. The Chinese company *Chevalier* is a multi-national conglomerate that is into construction, property, insurance, hotels, insurance, information technology and food businesses in China, South East Asia, Europe, North America and Australia. *Chevalier* is buying *Moraitis*, an Australian Company that grows, processes, packs and wholesales at least sixteen food commodities sold in Coles, Woolworths and other independent supermarkets and other markets. *Moraitis* also owns high stakes in Australia's most popular potatoes, has about 90% of Woolworth's potato and onion trade and owns shares in potato farms in NSW and South Australia.

If the Chinese buyers decide that they want this Australian fresh produce for themselves, many items will surely disappear off our supermarket shelves, thus restricting supply, increasing prices and contributing to commodity shortages. Those who seek to do business with China should beware of selling out to China and other foreign countries that are currently buying up some of the best land we have and the fresh produce we enjoy.

RECOMMENDATION

8.1. *That Council receives and notes the Mayor and Councillors' reports.*

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Seconded: Councillor Don Henderson

Carried.

9. PUBLIC PARTICIPATION TIME

This part of the Ordinary Meeting of Council allows for the tabling of petitions by Councillors and Officers and 30 minutes for the purpose of:

- Responding to questions that have been submitted by members of the community.
- Allowing members of the community to address Council.

Community members are invited to submit written questions to the CEO by 12 noon on the day of the Council meeting. If you wish to address Council you must provide a brief synopsis of your address in writing to the CEO by 12 noon on the day of the Council meeting.

Questions may be taken on notice and responded to later. Likewise, some questions of an operational nature may be responded to through usual administrative procedure. Separate forums and Council processes are provided for deputations or for making submissions to Council.

9.1. PETITIONS

Nil

9.2. QUESTIONS

Question 1: From Mr Chris Fawcett, Lawrence
Not present at meeting

What actions are the senior members of Council taking to rein in the illegitimate and unpermitted expansions of the rogue operation known as “Creswick Quartz”?

I have been in contact with Council’s Investigations Officer Geoff Newton, but have heard and seen nothing for months and seek communication of this matter with senior Council members.

Answered by Mayor Councillor Sebastian Klein

This matter is the subject of an ongoing investigation and involves the consideration and verification of non-conforming use rights.

Written advice has been provided to the complainant, which details some of the complexities associated with the operation, as part of the operation enjoys existing use rights. Written advice has been provided to the operators regarding the need for planning approval for a structure and some earthworks.

Question 2: From Mr Paul Prendergast, Glenlyon

Swords Road – About time this road is fixed properly, not patch ups/band aid short term fixes that last a week or so. No gutters for water runoff. Road surface down to bedrock in several areas very unsafe.

The full length of this road from Holcombe Road to Ridge Road, Thomas Mole Lane and beyond needs 150-200 mm of road base as was done some 11 years ago.

Answered by Mayor Councillor Sebastian Klein

Council has been monitoring the condition of both Holcombe Road and Swords Road since some concerns were raised in April 2012 and on occasions since then. A commitment has been made to include these roads in this year's Gravel Road Resurfacing Program.

These two roads are in the first group of roads to be addressed in this year's program which is scheduled to commence during late November. Works will include drainage improvements and reshaping as well as application of gravel specifically in areas where bed rock is evident and therefore cannot be maintained appropriately. Both of these roads are intended to be completed prior to the end of December 2012.

Question 3: From Mr Graeme Rattray, Glenlyon

Question to CEO Mr Aaron van Egmond of the Hepburn Shire Council

I had an appointment with the CEO Mr van Egmond on Friday 7 September at the Glenlyon Hall. First thing I asked was about an article in The Advocate on 5 September, about the Council winning a

Collaboration and Innovation award. About saving \$630,000 and how delighted the Mayor was at saving the ratepayers' money.

Jeff Kennett said when the councils amalgamated they should work together to save money for ratepayers. And they should tender out jobs to make sure that they can get it cheaper than doing it themselves.

I spoke of all that I know of that was wasted over the years.

Lindsay Park, the new Works Depot, the Arborist report on Swords Road, consultants fee for the Rate Review, consultants fee for the Streetscape. I don't know how many hundreds of thousands were wasted. These are all that I know of at the moment.

I would like to know how much was wasted overall?

He said he was going to have a look at Holcombe and Swords Road.

I asked when is the bitumen from the end of the cemetery on Holcombe Road to Holcombe gate going to be done. I heard there was \$20,000 paid six years ago, to the Council as part payment to do the road for the Holcombe subdivision.

Also in the same paper a planning permit for the CFA fire shed was advertised and a septic tank. **How can they get a planning permit for a septic tank** when we went to a meeting a week before at Campbells Creek about people not being able to build on less than 40 hectares in regard to any sewerage treatment plant?

I asked about the septic tank at the Glenlyon Reserve. It's only about 50 metres from the Loddon River.

At the Progress meeting, I asked about the money given to the Action Group firstly the \$500 which was given to the Progress Association and when I asked the Treasurer about it even he didn't know what the money was for as the Council didn't tell them. They just received a cheque. Then there was \$2,000 to the Action Group for a Big Swing Ball on 25 August. Nothing happened. **Where has this money gone?** I did hear it was sent to the CFA.

A couple of weeks ago I heard Greg May on the radio talking to the ABC. He said he was going to stand for Creswick Ward. He said he was an organic wine grower and vegetable grower. **Is Councillor Rod May also an organic wine grower and vegetable grower?**

Answered by Mayor Councillor Sebastian Klein

In response to your first questions about how money was wasted overall, it is difficult to quantify. Admitting that the projects you mentioned did have cost overruns, every project was worthwhile. You are welcome to speak to Council's Finance Department about specific projects.

With regards to the sealing of current gravel section of Holcombe Road from the Cemetery to Holcombe gate there remains a condition on an existing planning permit for and detailed in correspondence to the applicant dated 9 December 2008.

A financial contribution equating to 47% of the total contribution has been received in 2008 and no works are currently planned until the full costs have been received by Council. The 2005 planning permit stipulates payment of \$19,023.63 with \$10,000 still outstanding and subject to CPI increases.

The CFA have submitted a planning application for new CFA facility and this is currently being assessed.

The upgrading of an onsite waste water disposal system at the Glenlyon Recreation Reserve is difficult due to the proximity of the waterway. A new system has been designed to satisfy requirements but requires significant funding to meet the water authority requirements for a potable water catchment. A permit will be required from Council and the water authorities.

The \$500 was allocated to the Progress Association for maintenance at the Glenlyon Hall as set out in Council's Buildings Maintenance Policy 42 (C).

The grant for the Glenlyon Action Group was approved by Council as part of **Round 2 2011-2012 Community Grants Program**. The Group advised Community Services staff on 19 June 2012 that they did not want to proceed with the project, therefore grant funds were not paid. CFA was included because it was the auspicing agency for the project. Council requires an incorporated association to auspice or apply for any project funding.

Councillors considered the last question to be of a personal nature. You are welcome to contact Cr Rod May or candidate Mr Greg May directly to discuss this question.

10. OFFICERS' REPORTS

10.1. CONSIDERATION OF THE 2011-2012 ANNUAL REPORT GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager Corporate Services, I Evan King, have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive and note the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

BACKGROUND

Under the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act), Council is required to receive the Annual Report at a meeting of Council as soon as practicable after the Council has sent the Annual Report to the Minister (S 134). The 2011-2012 Annual Report was sent to the Minister on 28 September 2012 as required under the Act.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The requirements to prepare an Annual Report are contained in Section 131 of the Act and Part 4 of the *Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004* (the Regulations).

The information that must be contained in an Annual Report for each financial year includes:

- A report of operations for the financial year;
- Audited standard statements;
- Audited financial statements; and
- Audited performance statement.

The audited standard statements and financial statements were adopted in principle by Council at its Ordinary Meeting held on Tuesday 18 September 2012.

Key elements of the Annual Report are as follows:

- Review of performance against the Council Plan;
- Major changes that have taken place during the year;
- Other major operations, achievements and future directions;
- Legislative, economic or other factors which have had an impact on the Council's performance;
- Major policy initiatives undertaken by the Council;

- Major works undertaken or completed;
- List of names of all Councillors and their dates of election and retirement;
- Names of senior staff (executive) with brief description of their area of responsibility;
- Organisation Chart;
- Audited Performance Statement;
- Contact details of Council offices;
- Places where prescribed information can be inspected and copied;
- Victorian Local Government Indicators;
- Freedom of Information;
- Information Privacy;
- Compliance with the National Competition Policy;
- Whistleblowers Protection Act compliance;
- All local laws current at end of financial year;
- Specify the number, classification and types of jobs of members of Council staff;
- Statement in relation to equal opportunity program.

All of the above information has been included in the 2011-2012 Annual Report, which will be available for viewing at Council's offices and on its website once received by Council.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The requirements to prepare an Annual Report are contained in Section 131 of the Act and Part 4 of the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004 (the Regulations).

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications applicable to this report.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

As lodgement has occurred within required timeframes, no risks have been identified with this report.

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The public availability of the Annual Report ensures transparency and allows the public to evaluate how Council is progressing towards the objectives identified in their 2009-2013 Council Plan and the financial results and position of the Council at 30 June 2012.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

As required by the Act, a public notice has been placed in the Advocate advertising Council's intention to consider the 2011-2012 Annual Report at the Ordinary Meeting of Council in October.

CONCLUSION

Legislative requirements in relation to the Annual Report have been met for 2011-2012.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

10.1.1 That Council receives and notes the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

MOTION

10.1.1. That Council receives and notes the 2011-2012 Annual Report.

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Barrell

Carried.

**ATTACHMENT 1 - HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT
2011-2012**

(Issued under Separate Cover)

10.2. STATEMENT OF INTENTION 2012–2013

GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager Corporate Services, I Evan King have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to adopt the 2012–2013 Statement of Intention.

BACKGROUND

Hepburn Shire Council has historically prepared a Statement of Intention for the newly elected Council. Although there is no statutory requirement to prepare such a document, outgoing Councils have determined this is an important process in the handover from one Council to the next.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

The Statement of Intention 2012–2013 is a guide for the final year of activity for the Council elected in 2008. Elections in October 2012 mean that a new Council will deliver many of the outcomes outlined in this Council Statement. Before 30 June 2013, the new Council will also prepare a four year Council Plan 2013–2017 for its term in office.

This Statement seeks to clearly express what the outgoing Council hoped to achieve during the 2012-2013 financial year and also what the Council has identified as important as the new Council prepares its 2013–2017 Council Plan.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The preparation and handover of the Statement of Intention supports the good governance fundamental principle and provides support to the incoming Council.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no financial implications associated with the Statement of Intention.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

The preparation of the Statement of Intention provides support and guidance to the incoming Council pending the preparation on the 2013–2014 Budget and Council Plan 2013–2017.

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

There are no environmental, social or economic implications associated with the Statement of Intention.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The Statement of Intention provides guidance to the incoming Council based on the 2009-2013 Council Plan and 2012–2013 budget for which there has been significant community consultation.

CONCLUSION

The Statement of Intention aims to provide guidance to the incoming Council of the current activities contained within the Council Plan, adopted budget and any future aspirations of the Current Council.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 10.2.1 Adopts the 2012–2013 Statement of Intention.
- 10.2.2 Authorises officers to provide the 2012–2013 Statement of Intention to the incoming Council during the induction program.

MOTION

That Council:

- 10.2.1. Adopts the 2012–2013 Statement of Intention.*
- 10.2.2. Authorises officers to provide the 2012–2013 Statement of Intention to the incoming Council during the induction program.*

Moved: Councillor Bill McClenaghan

Seconded: Councillor Neil Newitt

Carried.

**ATTACHMENT 2 - HEPBURN SHIRE COUNCIL
STATEMENT OF INTENTION 2012-2013**

Hepburn Shire Council

Statement of Intention

2012-2013

Statement of Intention

This Statement will guide the final year of activity for the Council elected in 2008. Elections in October 2012 mean that a new Council will **deliver** many of the outcomes outlined in this Council Statement. Before 30 June 2013, the new Council will also prepare a four year Council Plan 2013–2017 for its term in office.

This Statement seeks to clearly express what the outgoing Council hoped to achieve during the 2012–2013 financial year and also sees important as the new Council prepares its 2013–2017 Council Plan.

Background Information

Hepburn Shire was created in January 1995 by the amalgamation of the former Shires of Creswick, Daylesford and Glenlyon, the Clunes portion of the Shire of Talbot and Clunes and the Trentham portion of the Shire of Kyneton.

Gradual growth took place during the 1970s and 1980s, due largely to resurgence in tourism and people seeking alternative lifestyles. The shire's population increased marginally during the 1990s, rising from about 13,300 in 1991 to about 13,800 in 2001. The population, according to figures in the 2011 Census data, is 14,367– this is slightly lower than the forecast of 15,020 (made in 2006).

2011 Census Information – at a glance

Total population – 14,367

Male – 6,951

Female – 7,416

Median age – 46

Families – 3,870

Demographic Information

Age: The median age of people in the Hepburn Shire was 46 years. Children aged 0 - 14 years made up 17.1% of the population and people aged 65 years and over made up 19.4% of the population

Education: In the Hepburn Shire 26.4% of people were attending an educational institution. Of these, 27.6% were in primary school, 21.3% in secondary school and 15.2% in a tertiary or technical institution.

Ancestry: The most common ancestries in the Hepburn Shire were English 30.3%, Australian 26.9%, Irish 11.2%, Scottish 9.4% and German 3.5%

The Shire's main townships are: Creswick with 2942 residents; Clunes with 1,656 residents; Daylesford with 2565 residents; Hepburn Springs with 700 residents;

Trentham with 1411 residents. The remaining (45%) residents live in the many small townships, villages and rural areas across the Shire.

Infrastructure

Hepburn Shire has 590 km of sealed roads; 723 km of gravel roads; 28 km of footpaths; 126 km of kerb and channelling; 136 bridges; 34 km of drains and a significant number of buildings that require maintenance and renewal. The combined value of these assets is \$188.6 million.

Council Plan

The Council Plan provides an outline of the many things we think are particularly important to our citizens. The Plan tells citizens what we intended to achieve over our term.

The Council Plan 2009-2013 makes four fundamental commitments:-

- 1. We will deliver good governance to the Hepburn Shire**
- 2. We will help improve economic prosperity**
- 3. We will assist our residents improve the health, safety and vibrancy of our communities**
- 4. We will guide our Shire towards environmental sustainability**

How Will Success be Measured?

Only by measuring performance can we draw conclusions about the success, or otherwise, of our strategies and whether we have delivered on our commitments.

The performance indicators we have chosen tell us whether our actions have been understood and valued by our community.

1. We will deliver good governance to the Hepburn Shire

We believe in the importance of Good Governance in Hepburn Shire.

Good Governance is the complex set of processes, protocols and behaviours which lead to good decisions. Good decisions are those which are informed by evidence and good advice, contributed to and understood by communities, underpinned by integrity and make sense in the long term interests of the community.

We also recognise that Good Governance means ensuring that the diversity of views and opinions in our community are given proper weight in the decision making process. However, Good Governance is also about accountable leadership. When

we meet as a Council and make decisions, those decisions must be made in the long term best interests of the whole Shire.

We think there are five essential ingredients for good governance that need our immediate and sustained attention.

- A sound working relationship between Councillors and Shire management.
- Long term financial sustainability for the future
- Effective community engagement
- Transparent decision making
- Strong advocacy for Hepburn Shire.

2012-2013 Actions

- 1.1 We are committed to finding a permanent solution to the office accommodation issues
- 1.2 We will complete the Implementation of the new Corporate Information System - TechnologyOne OneCouncil – Initiative No 5
- 1.3 Employee Opinion Survey Actions Plans will be implemented ensuring that Hepburn Shire Council is an employer of choice – Initiative No 4
- 1.4 We will continually update the risk register identifying risk mitigation activities – Initiative No 15
- 1.5 We will develop and undertake a Business Planning process to provide a clear line of sight between the Council Plan and the operations of the organisation – Initiative No 22
- 1.6 We will review the Asset Management Policy and undertake 4 service level reviews – Initiative No 6
- 1.7 We will provide a comprehensive induction program for the newly elected Councillors.
- 1.8 A comprehensive corporate training program will be developed ensuring that Hepburn Shire Council is an employer of choice, offering a safe and equitable workplace and opportunities for professional growth – Initiative No 4
- 1.9 A new Council Plan will be developed in conjunction with the community
- 1.10 We will develop a 10 year financial plan underpinned by sound principles of sustainability and community input
- 1.11 We will maintain high standards of financial accountability by:
 - Providing regular financial reports to the community
 - Conducting quarterly Audit and Risk Advisory meetings
 - Reviewing the 2012-2013 budget
- 1.12 We will lobby the Minister for Local Government to steer reforms that protect local communities from the burden of funding top up calls for the Local Government Defined Benefit Fund – Initiative No 24

- 1.13 We will commence the review of the Road Management Plan researching the pertinent facts to reach a clear policy position – Initiative No 25

Performance Indicators

- Completion of a office accommodation business plan investigating options for the future
- TechnologyOne OneCouncil fully implemented
- Full Business Plan presented to Council
- Asset Management Policy adopted by Council
- Induction program provided to new Council
- 10 Year Financial Plan adopted by Council
- Staff Delegations, Special Committee Delegations and Councillor Code of Conduct adopted by Council

2. We will help improve economic prosperity

We are committed to helping our citizens achieve economic prosperity. We understand how important it is for Hepburn Shire residents to access local jobs and to invest in local businesses.

We have well established and strong business sectors like retail trade, manufacturing, health and community services, agriculture, tourism and forestry.

We think there is potential for growth in these sectors.

- Farming
- Tourism
- New Businesses and Jobs
- Business Infrastructure

2012-2013 Actions

- 2.1 We will support the National Broadband rollout in Creswick and seek to influence the timing for the rollout in the rest of the Shire – Initiative No 40
- 2.2 We will commence the physical works associated with the adopted Daylesford Streetscape Revitalisation Strategy – Initiative No 32
- 2.3 We will undertake an Industrial Land Study across the Shire with particular focus on Creswick and Clunes – Initiative No 35
- 2.4 We will support the key objectives of Advancing Country Towns – Initiative No 39
- 2.5 We will commence to develop a Chinese Sister City Program incorporating hosting a delegation – Initiative No 35

- 2.6 We will implement the Economic Development Strategy Business Plan which will encourage investment opportunities throughout the Shire – Initiative No 36
- 2.7 We will celebrate the 150 year anniversary of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens – Initiative No 31
- 2.8 We will celebrate 150 years of Local Government – Initiative No 31
- 2.9 We will continue to support Daylesford Macedon Ranges Tourism in the promotion of the Shire as a whole – Initiative No 28
- 2.10 We will support drawcard events through the development of Memorandums of Understanding – Initiative No 31

Performance Indicators

- National Broadband rollout commenced in Creswick
- Priority given to the rollout of the National Broadband across the Shire
- Streetscape small wins completed
- Advancing Country Towns projects advanced
- Chinese Sister City agreement signed with Bozhou
- Successful and well attended 150 year celebration of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens held
- Continued high attendance at the Shire’s festivals and events

3. We will assist our residents improve the health, safety and vibrancy of our communities

There are many communities of interest in the Hepburn Shire. Planning for these communities will not be successful if we use a “one size fits all” approach. We want to support them in planning and achieving their goals. Community Planning will build the capacity of our local communities and create places which are highly valued by residents. We think the plans which communities prepare for themselves should guide Council’s development priorities.

Healthy communities are those that are informed, connected and inclusive. Our leisure and library services are particularly important in this regard. We will also play a stronger role in providing the information and links citizens need to lead more empowered, independent lives.

By recognising and understanding the diversity in the Hepburn communities we will design our services and programs so that they are accessible to everyone. This is particularly important for marginalised groups within our diverse communities – people with disabilities, indigenous Australians and unemployed residents. Social inclusion is for everyone.

2012-2013 Actions

- 3.1 We will roll out on demand community transport for Daylesford and district – Initiative No 47
- 3.2 We will commence the implementation of the Creswick Flood Mitigation Plan – Initiative No 49
- 3.3 We will facilitate the completion of the Clunes Flood Mitigation Plan in conjunction with the North Central Catchment Authority – Initiative No 49
- 3.4 We will substantially complete the flood recovery & repair program – Initiative No 52
- 3.5 We will modify the Daylesford Planned Activity Group building to cater for clients with dementia – Initiative No 44
- 3.6 We will commence the Crossing Borders Tracks and Trails Project as the lead agency – Initiative No 52
- 3.7 We will commence the construction of the Clunes Community Interpretive Centre building - Initiative No 54
- 3.8 We will develop a new Access and Inclusion Plan which will provide the basis for achieving high levels of social inclusion throughout the Shire – Initiative No 47
- 3.9 We will deliver the 2012-2013 Capital works program achieving safer roads and buildings – Initiative No 52
- 3.10 We will continue to implement the recommendations of the Walking & Cycling strategy – Initiative No 52
- 3.11 We will commence the transfer of community housing to a registered housing association leveraging increased housing capacity
- 3.12 We will commence the development of a Municipal Early Years Plan – Initiative No 47
- 3.13 We will complete a detailed design for the Lindsay Arts Trail and seek to leverage funding for the construction – Initiative No 52
- 3.14 We will complete the Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan – Initiative No 50

Performance Indicators

- Community transport service operational
- Physical works commenced implementing the Creswick Flood Mitigation Plan
- Clunes Flood Mitigation Plan Completed
- Modifications completed on the Daylesford Programmed Activity Group building
- Access and Inclusion Plan adopted by Council
- Detailed design for the Lindsay Arts Trail completed
- Municipal Health and Wellbeing Plan completed and adopted by Council
- Municipal Early Years Plan developed

4. We will guide our Shire towards environmental sustainability

We are fortunate to live in one of Australia's most beautiful, productive, natural environments. There are, however, significant threats to the sustainability of that natural environment from both internal and external sources.

We think improving the environmental sustainability of Hepburn Shire is one of our most fundamental challenges and we see that directly related to climate change and its impacts.

2012-2013 Actions

- 4.1 We will identify sites for revegetation – Initiative No 72
- 4.2 We will consider and analyse appropriate opportunities for Bio-energy in conjunction with the development of the waste management strategy and economic development strategy – Initiative No 74
- 4.3 We will identify appropriate locations for a grazing pilot to minimise weeds and slashing – Initiative No 72
- 4.4 We will commence a street tree replacement program for existing street trees including assessment and replacement with appropriate species – Initiative No 59
- 4.5 We will complete the energy descent action plan in conjunction with the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee to prepare for future changes and create a resilient community – Initiative No 59
- 4.6 We will complete the sustainable building management plan providing guidance for achieving reduced carbon emissions – Initiative No 59
- 4.7 We will distribute community sustainability and Landcare grants to the value of \$13,000 for community grants and \$24,000 for Landcare projects – Initiative No 59
- 4.8 We will continue to provide a sustainability award for a food or beverage maker who demonstrates sustainable practise within their operations – Initiative No 59
- 4.9 We will continue to seek funding for weed management to build on the excellent results achieved in 2011–12 – Initiative No 72
- 4.10 We will complete the waste management strategy seeking to reduce the waste taken to landfill – Initiative No 74
- 4.11 We will develop an over arching plan to increase sustainability of waste management systems and practices - Initiative No 74

Performance Indicators

- Revegetation sites identified and planting commenced
- Co funding sought for Bio-energy pilot
- Appropriate location identified for grazing pilot
- Street trees assessed and replaced where required
- Energy decent action plan adopted by Council
- Sustainability grants awarded to community groups
- Funding sought for weed management program
- Waste Management Strategy adopted by Council

10.3. 2011-2012 EVENTS REPORT

GENERAL MANAGER COMMUNITY SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the Recreation and Events Coordinator, I Laura Campbell have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is to inform Council about the outcomes of its commitment to support community events with which it has Memorandum of Understanding agreements in place.

BACKGROUND

Council has a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the following events:

- Swiss & Italian Festa: MOU is inclusive of 2010-2012 events for \$10,000 in cash and up to \$3,000 of in-kind support.
- Booktown: MOU is inclusive of 2012-2014 events for \$10,000 in funding and up to \$5,000 of in-kind contribution.
- ChillOut: MOU is inclusive of 2012-2014 events for \$30,000 in cash and up to \$7,870 of in-kind contribution.
- Trentham Spudfest: MOU is inclusive of 2013-2015 events for \$5,000 in cash and up to \$2,000 of in-kind contribution.

All MOUs stipulate that they will be reviewed on an annual basis.

Each MOU outlines the expectations and requirements between Council and the event organising group.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

During the 2011-2012 financial year, Council provided financial and in-kind support to Swiss & Italian Festa, ChillOut and Booktown. As required in the MOU, each of the events provide Council with a post-event report that includes attendance figures, estimates of economic and tourism impact on the Shire, impact on the community, media and marketing and a detailed event budget. This report is to be provided to Council within 8 weeks of their event. All three events met this timeframe.

The table below outlines the Council contributions and outcomes of the festivals with MOUs as reported in their post-event report.

	Booktown	ChillOut	Swiss & Italian Festa
Council cash Contribution	\$10,000	\$30,000	\$10,000
MOU Council Commitment	\$5,000	\$7,870	\$3,000
Council In-Kind Contribution	Currently no method of tracking this information is in place.	Currently no method of tracking this information is in place.	Currently no method of tracking this information is in place.
Estimated Attendance	18,000	25,000	12,000
Estimated Economic Impact (provided by event organisers)	\$3,000,000	\$10,000,000	\$2,030,400
Profit / (Loss) 2011/2012	\$1,026.80	(\$2,132.90)	(\$996.00)

Standard formulas provided by Tourism Victoria indicate that for every day attendee the economic impact on the region is \$66.00 and that for every overnight attendee the economic impact on the region is \$205.00.

Officers are continuing to develop a more consistent evaluation methodology for evaluating and reporting the community and economic benefits of events.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The 2009-2013 Council Plan states “Supporting various drawcard events like ChillOut and Booktown which draw large numbers of visitors to Hepburn Shire”.

One of the measures of success found in the 2009-2013 Council Plan is that “Festivals and events celebrating cultural heritage and contemporary Shire communities will be well attended”.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

With the inclusion of the new MOU signed with Trentham Spudfest, Council now provides \$55,000 towards these significant events.

A further \$17,870 of Council commitment is provided across the four events.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Through receiving Council support these events have been able to develop their capacity to provide professional, safe and well organised events.

In order to ensure the community groups running the events are effectively using the financial assistance provided by Council, Council officers receive and review post-event reports provided by the organising group including financial reports.

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Council's support of the Swiss & Italian Festa, Booktown, ChillOut and Spudfest helps to achieve social benefits such as enhancing community pride; increased community participation, and expanding cultural perspectives.

The economic benefits for these three events have been estimated at over \$15,000,000 combined.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

These events all follow Council's four meeting event process. This process involves a meeting held with event organisers and key stakeholders six months prior to an event, six weeks prior, six days prior and a post event debrief meeting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

10.3.1 That Council receives and notes the 2011–2012 Events Report.

MOTION

10.3.1. That Council receives and notes the 2011–2012 Events Report.

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Seconded: Councillor Jonathan Barrell

Carried.

10.4. COMMUNITY ENERGY RESILIENCE REPORT AND COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

GENERAL MANAGER SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPEMENT

In providing this advice to Council as the Sustainability Officer, I John van Rooden have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to receive the Community Energy Resilience Report and to recommend Council support community hosted engagement sessions to gain broad community input into options and strategies to foster a more resilient community.

BACKGROUND

Research by the Association for the Study of Peak Oil and Gas and others, indicate the supply of cheap oil will peak or may have already peaked and consequently, costs are likely to significantly increase in the future. As the use of oil is all pervasive, there are serious implications for households, businesses and the whole Hepburn Shire community.

In 2010 Hepburn Shire Council sought community nominations for the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) to advise Council on sustainability and environmental issues and make recommendations for Council consideration.

One of the aims under the Terms of Reference of the ESAC Committee was to develop a local Energy Descent Action Plan in collaboration with Council and the community to deal with the issues associated with peak oil, energy descent, sustainability and climate change.

In mid 2011, the Committee commissioned Holmgren Design Services to prepare a background paper on energy descent to assist in the task of preparing a plan. The paper was presented to an ESAC meeting in November 2011 and also the Council meeting in March 2012. The background report has assisted a sub group of the ESAC to prepare the Community Energy Resilience Report to describe how the Hepburn Shire community might prepare and transition to a low energy future.

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

Community members of ESAC have pooled their knowledge, skills and commitment to create the Community Energy Resilience Report intended as a Community consultation paper, which includes:

- How energy operates in the Shire
- Vulnerability to peak oil
- Activities within the Shire which already contribute to energy resilience
- Opportunities and challenges in transitioning to a low energy future
- A potential framework for Council and the community to plan and make decisions

The report was tabled at the ESAC meeting held on 26 July 2012.

As a consequence, ESAC recommended Council receive the Community Energy Resilience Report and promote it for community consultation as per Hepburn Shire Council's community engagement strategy. Following this, community priorities would then be collated and presented for further consideration by ESAC and Council.

At the 26 July 2012 ESAC meeting, community members of ESAC highlighted that the report was a community prepared and driven consultation paper and therefore Council should support community led consultation to the broader community for further input.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

The Community Energy Resilience Report is consistent with the 2009-2013 Council Plan, particularly action items 27, 33, 38, 48, 59, 65 & 74 and its aims are an integral part of the *Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2011-2015*.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Costs associated with an independent facilitator may be incurred in supporting the community engagement sessions. These costs can be met within the current budget.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Council's support for this community driven engagement process enhances Council's community engagement reputation, however Council's environmental sustainability reputation may be at risk if no concrete actions result.

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Promotion of the Community Energy Resilience Report and community input will highlight the environmental, social and economic implications of peak oil, energy descent and climate change. It will encourage community led options and strategies to foster a more resilient community.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

It is proposed the Community Energy Resilience Report will be presented at community hosted and facilitated engagement sessions to be held across the Shire to seek broader community input into options and strategies.

CONCLUSION

The Community Energy Resilience Report has been prepared and driven by Community members of ESAC. Council should support community hosted and facilitated engagement sessions to seek broader community input into options and strategies to foster a more resilient community and to inform ESAC and ultimately Council. Due to the Community driven nature of the Community Energy Resilience report, further consultation should be seen to be quite distinct from Council driven consultation processes such as the upcoming Waste Management Strategy and the future Council Plan.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 10.4.1 Receives and notes the Community Energy Resilience Report.
- 10.4.2 Supports community hosted and facilitated community engagement sessions in Daylesford, Creswick, Trentham and Clunes to seek broader input into options and strategies to foster local resilience and to inform the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and Council.

MOTION

That Council:

10.4.1. Receives and notes the Community Energy Resilience Report.

10.4.2. Supports community hosted and facilitated community engagement sessions in Daylesford, Creswick, Trentham and Clunes to seek broader input into options and strategies to foster local resilience and to inform the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee and Council.

Moved: Councillor Rod May
Seconded: Councillor Don Henderson
Carried.

ATTACHMENT 3 - DRAFT COMMUNITY ENERGY RESILIENCE REPORT



Community Energy Resilience Report

Preparing for a High Cost & Uncertain Energy Future...

Hepburn Shire

Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee

July 2012

Introduction

Late in 2010, due to extreme weather conditions Hepburn Shire experienced a power outage so severe that it caused the shut down of ATM's, petrol pumps, supermarkets and restaurants in Daylesford.

B & B visitors in Daylesford were caught unawares as they ventured out to a virtual ghost town of closed shops. Nowhere to go, nothing to eat... The supermarket was compelled by law to empty the contents of all fresh and freezer food into the dumpsters.

The township was caught by surprise and many residents and business owners recognised how ill prepared they were to cope. The loss to the tourism industry was noticeable.



Photo 1: Arial shot of Creswick Flood Sept 2010 (Supplied by Hepburn Shire)

Energy in the form of fuel (oil and gas) and electricity is a fundamental determinant of our way of life. Oil in particular is central to all that we do – from how we grow, distribute, store, consume and dispose of our food, to the thousands of everyday items that we use to help us live. There is hardly any aspect of modern living not reliant on cheap oil.

At some point this decade the world supply of cheap oil will peak, or may have peaked already. Beyond this point the cost of oil will significantly rise. Given oil's role in everything, and given that demand for energy and goods continues to grow, there are serious long-term implications for our households, our businesses and local communities.

This report has been prepared to provide the Hepburn community with information and ideas about the future of the Shire from an energy resilience perspective.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) hopes the report will stimulate thinking and debate about how we can make the Shire more energy resilient, and help empower the community to actively participate in decisions affecting the future of the Shire.

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Background

In 2010 Hepburn Shire Council sought community nominations for the Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC). The Committee consists of eight community members, three councillors and four council officers. Community members represent all geographic areas of the shire, and have a range of interests and skills in environment and sustainability fields as well as business and community. The purpose of the Committee is to act as an advisory body to council on sustainability and environment issues and make recommendations to council for their consideration.

One of the aims for this Committee was to develop a local Energy Descent Action Plan.

An Energy Descent Action Plan (EDAP) is a local plan for dealing with peak oil, energy descent, sustainability and climate change. It goes well beyond issues of energy supply, to look at across-the-board creative adaptations in the realms of health, education, economy and much more. An EDAP is a way to think ahead, to plan in an integrated, multidisciplinary way, to provide direction to local government, decision makers, groups and individuals with an interest in making the place they live into a vibrant and viable community in a low-carbon era.

In mid-2011, the Committee commissioned Holmgren Design Services to prepare a background paper on energy descent to assist it in its task. The *Energy Descent Action Planning for Hepburn Shire: Final Report* was tabled in November 2011. This work helped the Committee in its understanding of energy descent planning and led to the Committee deciding to prepare this report on community energy resilience.

The **Community Energy Resilience Report** seeks to describe how the Hepburn Shire community might prepare and transition to an uncertain energy future in which energy is less available and of high cost. In particular it describes:

- How energy is used in the Shire
- Our vulnerability in particular to peak oil
- Activities in the Shire that already contribute to community energy resilience
- Opportunities and challenges in transitioning to a high cost and uncertain energy future
- A potential framework for Council and the community to plan and make decisions about energy resilience

This is a community prepared and driven report. The community members of the Committee have pooled their knowledge, skills and commitment to create this report with some assistance from outside experts.

Peak Oil and Why it Matters

There is widespread agreement that global oil production has peaked, or will peak in the near future and subsequently decline, and that a global oil supply crunch within the next decade is highly plausible¹.

While new supplies of oil are being discovered, most of these new reserves require more energy to extract and process the oil into usable form, often with increased environmental costs and risks, making it increasingly expensive. Overall, there is predicted to be a slow decline in oil supply, while at the same time increased demand from population and economic growth.

The net effect of these forces is an increase in the costs of oil, which in turn increases costs across all parts of the economy.

¹ IEA, 2011

Part 1: Energy in Hepburn Shire

Current Energy Use

Oil

Our current way of life relies on the availability of an abundant supply of cheap oil. Economic studies suggest that without a cheap and plentiful supply of energy, economic growth is severely limited.

Oil is the world's most important primary energy source, providing more than one third of all energy²... In considering our dependence on oil, we commonly focus on petrol and diesel, but our reliance upon it runs much deeper and wider:

- 80-95 per cent of all transport is fuelled by petroleum.
- All petrochemicals are produced from oil.
- 95 per cent of goods arrive at the point of sale using oil.
- 99 per cent of our food involves the use of oil and/or gas for fertiliser, pesticides, ploughing, cultivation, processing and transport.
- For the last half century there has been a close correlation between world economic growth and growth in world oil production.
- Oil is a primary component of computers, car parts, telephones, packaging, synthetic rubbers, bitumen, perfumes, carpets, paints, detergents, inks and innumerable other products.
- Global food production and deliveries are fuelled by oil that runs farm machinery and transport, and fertilizers and other farm inputs. The vast majority of food production across the developed world depends heavily on mechanized farm equipment, fertilizers, pesticides and other inputs that are dependent on the availability of cheap oil and gas.
- Our health system is dependent on oil for transport, pharmaceuticals and equipment. Medical equipment such as syringes, sterile gloves and packaging are highly oil reliant. Oil is also an input to many medicines.
- Economic growth is linked to the availability of cheap energy, currently provided by oil, gas and coal. Oil price spikes are always followed by a period of economic recession.
- We are oil dependent in dealing with natural disaster; assistance and supplies are often brought into affected areas by truck and helicopter.
- Our dependence on affordable oil means that we also rely on it to maintain employment, social justice and the social fabric of our society. A sudden oil crisis would lead to economic crisis and possible food shortages and social crisis.
- Gas, coal and electricity prices are linked to oil prices.

The average oil consumption in Australia is approximately 47 barrels of oil/day, per thousand people³. This is high by world standards and is in part because we have a small population on a large landmass.

Our heavy reliance on oil makes us far more vulnerable to Peak Oil than many other countries.

² McCarthy, S., 2009, *Peak oil and the Australian economy*. Australian Association for the Study of peak Oil and Gas.

³ Energy Statistics: Oil consumption (per capita) (most recent) by country. http://www.nationmaster.com/graph/ene_oil_con_percap-energy-oil-consumption-per-capita

Fuel & Transport

Most access to Hepburn Shire occurs by road. As a premier tourist destination and farming region this makes the population heavily reliant on road transport and vehicles. We are reliant on our goods and services arriving regularly by road. The recent bushfires and floods highlighted this as many of our roads became inaccessible.

Case Study: Direct Fuel and Bitumen Costs for Council

In 2010-2011, Council spent approximately \$220,000 on fuel for plant and vehicles, and \$100,000 on bitumen for road works.

An increase of 30% in the price of oil would require Council to add a 1% rate rise to cover the increase cost on fuel and bitumen alone.

In addition, indirect costs (e.g. from third party transport) would also require further funds to be raised from ratepayers or other levels of government to maintain existing levels of service.

The total land area of the Shire is approximately 1,470 sq km with 600 km of sealed roads, 730 km gravel and 80 km of formed roads. This makes for a lot of energy consuming upkeep of gravel roads and high fuel consumption with unavoidably long distances to travel. Approximately 95% of bitumen is imported into Australia.

Public transport is limited around the Shire. Daylesford is 28 km to the nearest train station at Creswick or 35 km to the train station at Ballan, 44 km to Castlemaine rail or 45 km to Woodend. Trentham is 23 km to Woodend railway station. Creswick is the only town in the Shire that has a railway service. Clunes has a limited bus service to Ballarat.



Figure: Hepburn Shire road map density. (Supplied by Hepburn Shire)

Electricity

There are 10,500 residential, commercial and farming properties in the Hepburn Shire. The annual electricity used in the Shire is in the order of 73.000MWh per year. At least 95% of this electricity is imported and mostly derived from coal-fired power stations. The principal driver of climate change is our heavy reliance on fossil fuel derived energy ⁴.

This equates to 99,612 tonnes of CO2 green house gas emissions per annum. One source suggests the Shire would need to plant 344,200 trees a year to compensate for the emissions.

Renewable Energy

The number of off grid solar arrays is not known. It would be reasonable to extrapolate a higher number than many municipalities, given a significant demographic who are environmentally aware (many have lived independently with solar power since the eighties); coupled with the cost of powering rural blocks. Solar arrays connected to the grid are estimated to be approximately 5% of the shire's stationary energy supply.

Hepburn Wind is a small, community owned renewable energy facility that feeds into the transmission network. The two wind generators are forecasted to output 12,200MWh per year, equivalent to the power needs of the homes in Daylesford and Hepburn Springs (approximately 2300), which equates to approximately 16% of the Shire's present stationary energy supply.

Solar Hot Water

Up to June 30 2012 the Renewable Energy Bonus Scheme enabled many solar hot water systems to be installed in the shire; however the total number of installations in this region is not known.

Bioenergy

Whilst bioenergy is a growing area of interest, research and education, there are few examples of biofuels being used in the shire at this time. One example is a small handful of people who have been making bio-diesel to run their vehicles from used cooking oil. Over the last few years the Central Highlands Agribusiness Forum (CHAF) and local potato growers have been experimenting with bio-diesel but this work has not yet been finalised.

Domestic heaters using grain as a fuel have recently become available for sale in the shire. These heaters can also use waste such as olive pits, almond shells, etc.

Wood

Wood is considered humankind's very first source of energy. Today it still is the most important single source of renewable energy providing over 9% of the global total primary energy supply⁵.

Wood fuel can be used for cooking and heating, fueling steam engines and steam turbines that generate electricity. Wood fuel can be available as firewood, charcoal, chips, pellets and sawdust. About 1.5 million households in Australia use firewood as the main form of domestic heating⁶.

There is no firm data on the use of wood for energy in Hepburn Shire. Firewood for home heating and wood stoves is mainly harvested from farms and from the Wombat Forest. Substantial quantities of firewood are harvested each year through permits to commercial operators and for private use. Harvesting operations are managed to ensure there is no detrimental impacts on biodiversity.

⁴ IPCC, 2007

⁵ <http://www.fao.org/forestry/energy/en/>

⁶ **a b** Matthew (26 December 2009). "The Truth about the Australian Home Heating Association" Clean Air Society of Kapiti Coast Retrieved 26 November 2010. Cited in http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wood_fuel#Australia

Some community members have noted waste of timber that is burnt off instead of being collected and made available for others to use. There is also some timber removal from crown land through illegal means.

Waste to Energy

Waste-to-energy is the process of creating energy in the form of electricity or heat from the incineration of waste. There are myriad sources of waste that can be used. The key issues in using waste to energy are the energy and financial cost of extracting the energy (each project needs to look carefully at the overall energy gain compared with other sources of energy), and the associated environmental impacts.

Most waste to energy processes produce electricity directly through combustion, or produce a combustible liquid or gas fuel, such as methane or ethanol or synthetic fuels.

It is not known how much of this practice goes on in Hepburn Shire, though there has been interest shown in using wood waste (e.g. from pine plantations) to produce energy on site for combined heat and power (CHP) with surplus electricity fed into the grid⁷.

Summary of Hepburn's vulnerability to peak oil

In writing this report it has become evident that accurate statistics of energy use in Hepburn Shire are not available, and the statistics are not simple to acquire. Power providers are reluctant to share information about usage or pricing structures. The statistical information that exists is either not available to the public, or in any accessible format or central place.

The following summarises the ways in which the Hepburn Shire is vulnerable to peak oil⁸.

Transport

Rising fuel prices directly impact costs and choices for all forms of private and business transport as well as public services.

Agricultural and tourism sectors will be particularly impacted.

Those who commute long distances to work need to drive a lot for their work, or drive children to schools in nearby towns will be severely impacted. All goods and services will increase in price to cover extra transport costs.

Public transport providers will be hit by high fuel costs and increasing demand. Growing economic constraints will make fare prices a big issue for the public. Economies of scale will see greater numbers of larger trucks, which affects road surface conditions and maintenance regimes.

Food

Higher oil costs will lead to increasing farm input costs. Mechanised farming methods and globalised delivery infrastructures will be affected. In the event of supply shortages food distribution systems will be strained.

Rising price of food due to increases in production, packaging and transport costs will affect the public with a knock-on effect on the economy and public services as more people fall into food poverty. Imported food products may struggle to compete with local supplies. Those who export food are also likely to struggle, but local growers, food hubs, community gardens will come into their own.

⁷ Holmgren, D. & Lillington, I. (2011) Energy Descent Action Planning for Hepburn Shire, Final Report, (October 2011)

⁸ Based on Bristol Peak Oil report

Health

Many aspects of healthcare rely heavily on transport of patients, staff and visitors, provision of home care and daily delivery of supplies. Supply shortages will put this system under strain and cause significant distress. Rising prices will affect the cost of service delivery. Some suppliers may be unable to afford to deliver services. Increased fuel prices will encourage greater participation in walking/cycling behavior.

Costs of oil based drugs and equipment will increase. As stockpiles run out and fixed price contracts expire this will have a knock-on effect on health-care budgets.

Economy

Rising costs of fuel, plastics and metals will affect many businesses.

Supply stoppages will affect businesses that rely on daily supplies and dispatches, or transport links. Some service providers will stop servicing regional and rural centres as the cost becomes prohibitive. Tourist destinations in the Hepburn Shire that normally attract large numbers of day-trippers in private vehicles will be vulnerable to decline. All council costs that require medium to heavy machinery will incur significant operating cost increases that will have to be covered from rate rises or government grants, or a re-prioritisation of the level of maintenance quality. All primary production costs will increase.

Transport costs will affect most businesses and their employees. The rising cost of gas, electricity and other commodities linked to oil will have an impact on business as the cost of running internet access and other electrical services rise. The rising need for imported oil and gas due to depleting domestic supplies will result in a weaker currency and increase the price of imports. Employees will be less inclined to travel long distances to work. Small rural and regional towns with little or no public transport will struggle to attract employees and residents. Business and industry that once may have considered decentralizing will consider locating closer to major hubs.

Public services

Institutions (such as schools or hospitals) still using oil for heat will suffer from rising fuel costs. Essential services that rely on motorised transport will be put under strain, particularly public transport.

Frequent supply stoppages will result in backlog and delays to services (for example waste removal). Rising fuel costs will affect staff travel. As existing contracts expire rising costs will hit public service budgets. Rising price of raw materials will add to the costs of construction and repairs for social housing. Economic contraction will lead to funding cuts.

Utilities

In Hepburn Shire approximately 95% of electricity generation is fossil fuel derived. Fossil fuel derived energy continues to increase in price while the cost of that derived from renewable energy is declining.

The link between the oil prices and other commodities will cause power prices to rise. Power and water companies will be hit with increasing repair and maintenance costs based on rising transport costs. Increased demand for gas and electricity could lead to power cuts.

National and State Energy Policy Directions

Both our national and state governments are committed to long-term dependence on fossil fuel derived energy future.

The Draft Energy White Paper 2011 provides a review of Australia's future energy needs to 2030 (and in some cases beyond) and defines a comprehensive strategic policy framework to guide the further development of Australia's energy sector⁹.

The priorities for future energy are:

- Strengthening the resilience of Australia's energy policy framework
- Reinvigorating the energy market reform agenda (markets and energy productivity)
- Developing Australia's critical energy resources
- Accelerating clean energy outcomes
- Increasing exports of fossil-fuel based energy, largely coal and gas
- Increasing the productivity of energy largely through energy efficiency schemes

The four key objectives of Victoria's energy policy¹⁰ are:

1. Ensure an efficient and secure energy system.
2. Ensure those supplies are delivered reliably and safely.
3. Ensure consumers can access energy at affordable prices.
4. Ensure our energy supplies and the way we use them are environmentally sustainable and in particular less greenhouse intensive.

Both policies are premised largely on the extensive availability of cheap coal, and centralised electricity supply. While centralised electricity produces efficiency of scale, it also makes the system more vulnerable to disruption. Coal-based electricity is the major single contributor to greenhouse gas pollution.

Key Implications for Hepburn Shire

There are three overarching trends that will influence the future of the Shire and guide thinking on energy resilience. They are:

- Reduced oil supply and availability
- Increased extreme climate events
- Increased economic disruption, volatility and social upheaval as a result of the above two trends

The implications of these trends for the Hepburn Shire without action are many.

Like most of the developed world, Hepburn's current infrastructure and economy is built on the availability of cheap non-renewable oil and centralised coal-powered electricity. As discussed above, any major spikes in the price or availability of oil will have profound impacts on our economy and quality of life.

At this stage there are no commercially available alternatives to oil which could replace current usage, and any such alternatives that might be found are expected to take decades to develop and implement. Renewable supplies of electricity are becoming increasingly available, though still limited.

⁹ Draft Energy White Paper 2011—*Strengthening the Foundation for Australia's Energy Future*. Department Resources, Energy and Tourism.

¹⁰ <http://www.dpi.gov.au/energy/about/policy-and-strategy/key-objectives>

Extreme climatic volatility expected with climate change will lead to increased heat waves, flooding, storm damage, fires and associated costs and disruption to social, economic and environmental well-being and resilience of the community.

Strategic risk to Council from peak oil and continued reliance on non-renewable forms of energy supply

- Increased cost of all oil dependent Council services, in particular vehicle running costs, the costs of oil dependent materials and equipment associated with service provision
- Increased cost of all oil dependent infrastructures, particularly for road building and road maintenance and the delivery of community services reliant on vehicle use such as meals-on-wheels.
- Increased social isolation by those unable to afford to run a vehicle
- Increased cost of fossil-fuel based energy
- Increased demand for poverty relief

Key opportunities from higher prices for oil and fossil fuel derived energy:

- Greater energy efficiency in products and services
- Boost for investment in renewable energy
- Reduction of oil based travel and transport
- Increased focus on local products and services
- Production, distribution and consumption of local fresh (i.e. unprocessed) foods
- Stimulation of re-use, recycling, repair and retrofit of existing technologies

Part 2: A Story of Transition to a Energy Resilient Future

Themes and Pathways for Energy Descent

To be successful in our endeavour to become an energy resilient community we need to engage the whole spectrum of community, business and government in a range of activities that:

- Reduce our usage of fossil fuels
- Maintain reliable energy supply
- Manage or reduce the cost of energy
- Ensures availability of our food and water supplies

In engaging people it is critical that they can see that getting involved and taking action at whatever level they can, is worthwhile. An Earthship building workshop or the establishment of a community garden may seem trivial to some, but it is surprising to see what inspiration is sparked and community spirit developed, along with an increase in capability. Many small or individual efforts sow the seeds of possibility and lead to larger and more beneficial initiatives. There are many who have established credible business ventures from a small seed of an idea. Hepburn Wind is one such initiative that grew out of a community meeting of a handful of people with an idea.

It is important to help business people, investors and social enterprise groups make the links to the potential economic benefits of projects in renewable energy, localised resources, biodiversity projects, alternative transport options and so on. There are many pathways to achieving the above four resilience outcomes.

What is already happening in the Shire?

It is important to take pause and recognise what is already happening in the Shire that contributes to building energy resilience, and to acknowledge the value of individual initiatives and relocalisation projects undertaken by various community groups. The impetus from these actions is not to be underestimated. They act as a catalyst for engaging a broader cross section of community and business.

These are some but not all of the stories.

Hepburn Relocalisation Network (HRN) is facilitated by a core group who maintain a blog website www.relocalisehepburn.blogspot.com.au. HRN has screened a series of awareness raising movies for over six years (around 50 films in total) and run bushfire preparation workshops, skills for resilient living workshops including shoe making, spinning, preserving and others. Those involved have built up an impressive amount of knowledge about community resilience and an estimated 400 different people have participated. HRN hosts community dinners highlighting local foods either catered for by local chefs with expertise in local produce, or where participants bring their own locally grown cultivated or bush food to share, including edible weeds!

Trentham Sustainability Group, although relatively new on the scene, has initiated a community garden project, sourced cotton string bags in a drive to create a plastic bag free town, as well they have hosted sustainability days and house tours, and community conversations to build interest and awareness.

Sustainable Hepburn Association (SHARE) has been instrumental in catalysing many housing retrofits, solar arrays, water tanks, heat shifters, reducing waste to landfill, as well as hosted numerous tours, educational talks, workshops and Expos. Over six hundred people visited the

most recent festival on self-sufficiency and DIY retrofits held in June 2012. People were eager to learn about local bush food, composting, chooks, bees and trees as well as how to save money and emissions on their do-it-yourself retrofitting. It is of interest to note that the feedback surveys from the Refit 'n Save retrofitting project that SHARE hosted identified that it was the combined effect of exposure to relevant information at the right time, an article or newsletter, a special offer organised through their supplier and advertised in the local store, a neighbour who had done something similar and the credibility of the recommendations from a not for profit group that contributed to installation of energy saving devices in their homes or businesses.

Similar activities take place right across the Shire with both Creswick and Clunes hosting events that have an increasing focus on recycling, waste minimisation and buying local. Creswick now has a community recycle shop.

There are many nature groups that build awareness and skill in contributing to clean water, air and soil and maintaining healthy biodiversity.

Tourism and Food

Some tourism events are increasingly taking a resilience approach. The annual Daylesford Macedon Ranges Produce Group Harvest Week Festival ran classes in cheese making, beer brewing, pizza making and conducted classes for children about food. These classes were popular and well attended. Tours included Stephanie Alexander's kitchen garden at the primary school, Annie Smithers garden which grows 90% of its produce for the restaurant, and farm tours including those which demonstrated various farming activities, kids classes showing kids how to do still life drawings and talk to producers of chickens honey eggs. The workshops, tours and tasting plates brought tourism income to the region and a community pride in what we have here.

Food and Farming

The Fawcett family have grown biodynamic grain crops now for about 15 years on their 500 acre property at Powlett Hill, outside Campbelltown. Under the Powlett Hill label, flours are bagged for wholesale and domestic consumption. This type of grain has become increasingly popular for people with food allergies. They use a variety of techniques, including radionics, to limit their energy expenditure, enhance yields and ensure a high quality product. Crops are value added on site through a milling and sifting process. Powlett Hill products are directly sourced by the Hepburn Wholefoods Collective and Hepburn Shire businesses Redbeard Bakery, Himalaya Bakery and Spade to Blade Catering, amongst others. They have recently added additional milling capacity to meet growing demand.

There are many other fine organic farming properties supplying locally - Fernleigh, Captains Creek, Mt Franklin Organics, Angelica to name a few, as well as several Veggie box schemes and farm gate sales around the region.

Building, Retrofitting and Renewable Energy

Despite the 6 star house minimum energy rating, many new housing in the Shire are constructed from very high embodied energy materials. Mud brick, Light earth and Strawbale are alternative building techniques frequently employed, as they require much less energy to produce than the usual conventional materials. The Hepburn Shire boasts many great examples of housing built with materials sourced locally. Several local businesses such as Gentle Earth Walking and Henderson Clay Works are involved in this way in Strawbale building and Light Earth construction respectively.

Some businesses have taken up the charge by lowering their carbon footprint directly such as Leanne Shaw, co-owner of Queensbury Studio massage and day spa business who invested in

solar hot water to cut down on her overheads. On a busy day at work, she can have up to four loads of towels and robes to wash. She explained that although she had a reasonable hot water system, she thought the business could do better for the planet and save some money at the same time. Leanne hasn't been disappointed. Her evacuated tube hot water system provides all the hot water she needs on sunny days, and pre-heats the water when it's cloudy. Combined with her 1Kw solar system, energy usage is reduced, whilst still providing all the comfort her clients need.

Some businesses have made low emission products available and can demonstrate to potential customers the efficiency of products that are available. Daylesford Hardware store now stock power saving electrical goods and advised people of available rebates.

Hepburn Wind Community Cooperative, the first Australian community developed and owned wind energy project, is situated at Leonards Hill close to Daylesford. This two-turbine project has produced 12,220Mwh/p.a. of electricity into the mains grid. Community shareholders can expect a financial dividend from this project in addition to having the ability to purchase renewable energy for their own use through the retailer Red Energy. In addition to direct returns for shareholders the cooperative also provides development grants for community groups in the area. It is anticipated this initiative will provide 15% of Hepburn Shire's electricity requirements – close to Australia's 2020 renewable energy target.

Transport

Public Transport has improved over the last several years. Hepburn shire residents now have bus linkages to Melbourne trains leaving from Woodend, Ballan, Castlemaine, and Ballarat stations. The number of people regularly using public transport has increased.

Car sharing and bicycles usage has increased in recent years. There is a growing awareness of the benefits of sharing car trips with others travelling in the same direction, and, through the efforts of the Critical Mass group, the benefits of using bicycles as a serious form of transport has been highlighted as a choice for some.

There have been some small forays into vehicles run on Alternative Energy and a number of early adopters have invested in personal alternative transport in the form of either electric or hybrid cars, or the backyard production of bio-fuel from waste oil for running their diesel vehicles.

The Next Steps

The above examples are a small selection of a myriad of activities where individual households and businesses have undertaken actions that reduce their vulnerability to shocks in the supply or cost of energy. A lot of these make sound economic sense, as well as improve the quality of life or the environment. To be successful we need to fully engage the whole community in energy planning and decision making

- Where possible reduce demand for energy and increase the efficiency of the energy that we do use
- Substitute non-renewable energy sources with renewable energy sources
- Stop polluting the environment
- Grow, distribute and consume locally produced, unprocessed foods, e.g. buy potatoes rather than frozen chips

The Opportunities and Challenges

There are many opportunities and challenges for the community in getting to a high cost and uncertain energy future for both the community and Council leadership. The following themes could be used to capture them¹¹:

- Working with Nature
This includes food security, localising food production and consumption, human well-being and biodiversity stewardship
- Creative Energy Systems
This includes energy security, renewable energy, transportation, buildings and housing
- Resourcing Localisation
This includes economics and livelihood, consumption and waste, land tenure
- Nurturing Transition
This includes arts, culture and media, spirituality, education, communication and skills for transition
- Empowering People
This includes local governance and community ownership, technology

In the next section we discuss Planning and Decision Making around these opportunities and challenges.

¹¹ Totnes Energy Descent Action Plan

Part 3: Energy Resilience Planning & Decision Making

As a community, we need to think about how we respond and prepare for future energy challenges and opportunities.

Building Pathways to Energy Resilience

Our task as a community is to build pathways to energy resilience. We need to agree on what success looks like, the themes of our transition to energy resilience, and the 'must have' actions and steps to get there.



Energy Resilience

Measures of Success

- Energy production or use does not cause any pollution or environmental degradation
- No energy is wasted
- Energy supply for essential and basic services is safe and reliable
- No one faces energy hardship
- All buildings are zero net energy
- Everyone in the community has access to safe, reliable and low-carbon mobility, infrastructure and information

Transition Themes

- Change the way we measure energy
- Rapidly change to renewable sources of energy
- Increase the standards for energy performance wherever possible
- Work with and support the community to make the transition

'Must have's' in all parts of the Shire by 2020:

- Affordable low-carbon transport options
- Existing building stock retrofitted to minimise energy use
- All new buildings minimum 8 star rating
- Commercially viable examples of waste to energy
- Businesses that have successfully broken away from a dependency on non-renewable energy in their supply chain
- Affordable agricultural fertilisers and solutions not dependent on oil

Change the way we measure energy

There are many indicators that a community is successfully transitioning to a low energy and secure position. Perhaps the most important indicators are the most difficult to accurately measure. General well being, improved health, growing local enterprises, energy security are obvious indicators. These measures encourage people to participate.

However energy usage can be measured relatively easily and can provide some useful indicators of progress. These include:

- Electricity – usage and production
- Gas
- Transport fuel – gas, petrol, diesel, biodiesel, electric
- Food miles
- Biomass

Some of this data is routinely recorded [although difficult to obtain due to corporate confidentiality], some is more difficult to obtain. In the early stages, estimates can be made to help in developing targets.

In all of these cases, a judgement needs to be made on the desire to become notionally energy neutral, for example, produce as much electricity as we consume, but still be connected to the national grid, or practically self sufficient and disconnecting from the national grid.

Whatever the desire, reporting milestones is possible and comparisons with larger areas e.g. Melbourne, Victoria, other states, Australia, other countries provides perspective.

The following measures are proposed as a way of determining whether we are becoming more or less energy resilient.

1. Energy benefit

Actions that increase our energy resilience:

- Reduce the demand for energy
- Increase the supply of locally produced renewable energy
- Reduce the risk of energy system failure in crisis (e.g. bushfires, heat waves etc)

2. Environmental benefit

Actions that increase our energy resilience:

- Reduce greenhouse gas pollution
- Do not harm our natural assets or undermine the ecological processes that provide a stable climate, clean air, water, soil and viable functioning of plant and animal communities

3. Community benefit

Actions that increase our energy resilience:

- Improve our overall quality of life
- Reduce the risk of energy hardship
- Increase our understanding of how energy works
- Increase community action and resources

Rapidly change to renewable sources of energy

Our dependence on oil makes us vulnerable to price rises caused by reduced supply and availability over time.

In addition, our oil and coal driven economy is dangerously polluting our atmosphere.

The quickest and most effective way to solve both these risks is to rapidly move to a future based on clean, renewable energy.

Increase the standards for energy performance wherever possible

Raising standards sends a signal to others of your values and aspirations. By encouraging and supporting our community to adopt the highest possible standards for energy performance wherever possible, we remind others and ourselves that we take energy seriously and are working towards lowering our energy use at every opportunity.

It is common now for people to choose electrical appliances based on their energy rating. In parts of Europe all houses have an energy performance rating that enables consumers to choose houses that require less heating or cooling. As fuel prices rise, the fuel efficiency of vehicles will become more important.

As well as individuals making these choices, Council and other organisations can adopt policies that favour the highest standards of energy performance in their appliances building stock, vehicle choices, machinery etc.

Work with and support the community to make the transition

All parts of the community need to be involved in the transition process. This means increasing community understanding of how energy works and what future energy risks and opportunities there are for us, and being part of the planning and decision-making process. The assertions, directions and ideas suggested in this report must be more broadly debated and owned. They must be part of community town plan discussions and on the agenda of local businesses and community groups.

The following tool is a useful tool for generating ideas for energy resilience¹². It has been successfully used a number of times to stimulate discussion about current and future energy options.

¹² Based on Holmgren, D. & Lillington, I. (2011) Energy Descent Action Planning for Hepburn Shire, Final Report, (October 2011).

	Working with Nature Supporting biodiversity – the web of life Food production & farming Health & wellbeing	Creative Energy Systems Energy Security Renewable Energy Transportation & Mobility Buildings & Housing	Resourcing Localisation Economics & Livelihood Consumption & Waste	Nurturing Transition Arts, culture & media Spirituality Education & Skills for Transition	Empowering People Local Governance Community Ownership
No regrets – things to do now					
Long term investments					
Advantage through change or crisis					

Table 1: Energy Resilience Planning Template

No regrets: give benefits with or without energy descent; can be done now without major decisions/expenditure

Long term investments: substantial expenditure or effort that should return benefits as energy descent progresses

Advantage through change or crisis: risk taking during or immediately following event or crisis that leverages a larger beneficial change

Council’s Role and Responsibilities

Council's role in energy resilience is to:

1. Provide leadership by ‘walking the talk’
2. Use its powers and resources to support and guide transition within the limits of available and affordable resources.
3. Engage and support the community in transition
4. Partner with others to broaden, deepen and strengthen the reach, speed and effectiveness of transition
5. Advocate and seek to influence others in helping bring about a just and effective transition

The Council Plan has a specific goal (59) to become a carbon negative organisation. The methodology and priorities of Council to get to this goal are spelt out in Council's Environmental Sustainability Strategy 2011-2015 under the themes:

1. Culture of Sustainability Leadership
2. Responding to the Effects of Climate Change, Peak Oil and Resource Challenges
3. Caring for Our Natural Assets
4. Community and Business Connection

Choosing Actions

The following tool is proposed for planners and decision-makers to assist them in choosing which projects and activities to invest in and support for creating greater energy descent.

Ideas are mapped according to the net energy resilience benefit vs. effort to implement. The best ideas and the ones that we should invest in are those in the "Great Idea" quadrant (i.e. the ones that deliver the highest value for the least effort). Ideas in the other quadrants are not lost or ignored, but explored to see whether they can be improved upon either by looking at how greater benefit or less effort could be achieved.

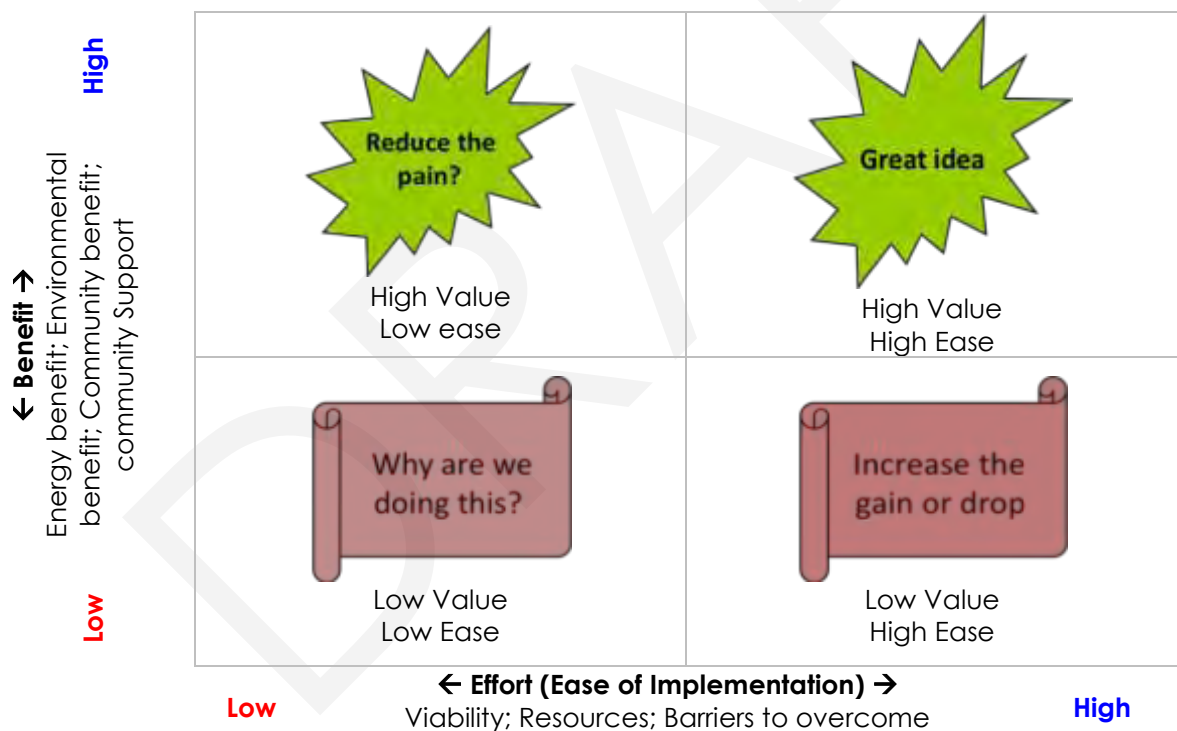


Figure 1: Tool for Energy Resilience Planning & Decision-Making

What is meant by "benefit" and "effort" is described below:

Benefit

Extent of benefit from the proposed action:

Energy benefit

- Reduces the demand for energy
- Increases the supply of locally produced renewable energy
- Reduces the risk of energy system failure in crisis (e.g. bushfires, heat waves etc)

Environmental benefit

- Reduces greenhouse gas pollution
- Does not harm our natural assets or undermine the ecological processes that provide a stable climate, clean air, water, soil and viable functioning of plant and animal communities

Community benefit

- Improves our overall quality of life
- Reduces the risk of energy hardship
- Increases our understanding of how energy works
- Increases community action, resources

Effort

Effort required to develop, implement and sustain the proposed action:

Viability

- Organisational complexity
- Long-term community affordability
- Immediate and ongoing impact on Council resources, systems and liability requirements

Resources

- Cost
- Time
- Skills and knowledge

Barriers to overcome

- Institutional/legal
- Technological
- Political
- Stakeholder needs
- Commercial/financial
- Social attitudes, perceptions

Must Have's in All Parts of the Shire by 2020

There are many actions that are needed.

In the Committee's view the most important ones are:

- Affordable low-carbon transport options
- Existing building stock retrofitted to minimise energy use
- All new buildings minimum 8 star rating
- Commercially viable examples of waste to energy
- Businesses that have successfully broken away from a dependency on non-renewable energy in their supply chain
- Affordable agricultural fertilisers and solutions not dependent on oil

Where to From Here

This report has been written as a first step in a longer conversation about the future of energy in our Shire in the hope that all residents will feel empowered to participate in the discussion.

The Environmental Sustainability Advisory Committee (ESAC) of Council offers this report to the wider community of the Hepburn Shire to facilitate discussion and further refinement of ideas that will ultimately lead to formal recommendations to Council.

**10.5. RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS – SEPTEMBER 2012
GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES**

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager Corporate Services, I Evan King have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

This report summarises Assemblies of Councillors for September 2012.

BACKGROUND

The Local Government Act 1989 defines Assembly of Councillors as

...a meeting of an advisory committee of the Council, if at least one Councillor is present, or a planned or scheduled meeting of at least half of the Councillors and one member of Council staff which considers matters that are intended or likely to be -

(a) the subject of a decision of the Council; or

(b) subject to the exercise of a function, duty of power of the Council that has been delegated to a person or committee –

but does not include a meeting of the Council, a special committee of the Council, as audit committee established under Section 139, a club, association, peak body, political party of other organisation;

Assemblies of Councillors		
Date	Location	Committee Name
4 September 2012	Council Chamber, Daylesford	Councillor Briefing
10 September 2012	Daylesford Secondary College	Daylesford ARC Advisory Committee
11 September 2012	Council Chamber, Daylesford	Councillor Briefing
17 September 2012	Creswick RSL	Creswick Ward Community Committee
18 September 2012	Creswick Senior Citizens Centre	Councillor/CEO Meeting
18 September 2012	Creswick Senior Citizens Centre	Pre Council Meeting

ISSUE / DISCUSSION

1. The *Local Government Act 1989* (as amended) requires the record of an Assembly of Councillors to be reported at an Ordinary meeting of the Council.
2. The *Local Government Act 1989* (as amended) requires the record of an Assembly of Councillors to be incorporated in the minutes of that Council Meeting.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Local Government Act 1989, Section 80A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil.

RISK IMPLICATIONS

There are implications with regards to Council's compliance with the *Local Government Act 1989* (as amended) if written records of Councillor Assemblies are not reported to Council.

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The inclusion of the attached record of Councillor Assemblies in the Council Agenda and their availability to the public will increase awareness of the activities of Council and could increase community involvement in decision making at Council level.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Using Council's adopted Community Engagement Framework, International Public Participation Consultation, this report presents information via the Council Agenda.

CONCLUSION

Information provided for noting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

- 10.5.1 That Council receives and notes the Records of Assemblies of Councillors for September 2012.

MOTION

10.5.1. That Council receives and notes the Records of Assemblies of Councillors for September 2012.

Moved: Councillor Bill McClenaghan

Seconded: Councillor Neil Newitt

Carried.

**ATTACHMENT 4 - RECORD OF ASSEMBLIES OF COUNCILLORS –
SEPTEMBER 2012**

(Issued Under Separate Cover)

11. COUNCIL SPECIAL COMMITTEES (SECTION 86)

11.1 MINUTES OF SPECIAL COMMITTEES (SECTION 86) GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager Corporate Services, I Evan King, have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the minutes and recommendations from Council's Special (Section 86) Committees.

BACKGROUND

Special committees are established by Council and their function and responsibilities outlined in an Instrument of Delegation. Under the Instrument of Delegation, special committees are required to maintain minutes of meetings held and provide a copy of the minutes to Council for review.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Please see listed below the minutes and other reports of Special and Advisory Committees, as provided by the Committees over the past month, for your information:

- Minutes from the Clunes Museum Special Committee Annual General Meeting 9/08/2012 including the President's Annual Report, Curator's Annual Report, Research and Discovery Annual Reports and the Reception Annual Report.
- Minutes from the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Reserve Special Committee Annual General Meeting 16/08/2012.
- Minutes from the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Reserve Special Committee General Meeting 16/08/2012.
- Minutes from the Lyonville Hall Special Committee Annual General Meeting 29/08/2012.
- Minutes from the Lyonville Hall Special Committee General Meeting 29/08/2012.
- Minutes from the Creswick Museum Special Committee General Meeting 03/09/2012.
- Minutes from The Lee Medlyn Home of Bottles & Clunes Information Centre Special Committee General Meeting 05/09/2012.

These minutes have been provided to Councillors under a separate cover.

The following recommendations have been received by Council and are presented for Council to consider adopting:

- The Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Reserve Special Committee recommended that one new member, Andrew Maher, be approved and added to the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Reserve Special Committee.

After the resignation of one existing committee member the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Reserve Special Committee has four members appointed until 31 July 2013. The instrument of delegation for the committee requires a minimum of five members. If Council wishes to add Andrew Maher bringing the total number of members up to five, as recommended by the special committee, a term ending 31 July 2014 would be considered appropriate.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Members of the community are represented on these committees.

CONCLUSION

Minutes and reports have been provided for noting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

11.1.1 That Council notes the minutes of the Special Committees (Section 86) listed above which have been distributed under separate cover.

MOTION

11.1.1. That Council notes the minutes of the Special Committees (Section 86) listed above which have been distributed under separate cover.

Moved: Councillor Rod May
Seconded: Councillor Janine Booth
Carried.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE RECOMMENDATION

11.1.2 That Council appoints Andrew Maher to the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Special Committee with a term ending on 31 July 2014.

MOTION

11.1.2. That Council appoints Andrew Maher to the Dean Recreation and Tennis Court Special Committee with a term ending on 31 July 2014.

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth
Seconded: Councillor Neil Newitt
Carried.

12. COUNCIL ADVISORY COMMITTEES

12.1. MINUTES OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES

GENERAL MANAGER CORPORATE SERVICES

In providing this advice to Council as the General Manager Corporate Services, I Evan King, have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to note the minutes received from Council's Advisory Committees.

BACKGROUND

Advisory committees are established by Council and their responsibilities outlined in the Terms of Reference. Advisory Committees are required to maintain minutes of meetings held and provide a copy of the minutes to Council for review.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

Please see listed below the minutes and other reports from Advisory Committees, as provided by the Committees over the past month, for your information:

- Doug Lindsay Reserve and Community Facility Management Advisory Committee 27/08/2012.
- Daylesford ARC Advisory Committee 10/09/2012.
- Creswick Ward Community Committee 17/09/2012.
- International Women's Day Women's Honour Roll Committee 3/10/2012.

These minutes have been provided to Councillors under separate cover.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Nil

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

Nil

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

Members of the community are represented on these committees.

CONCLUSION

Minutes have been provided for noting.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

12.1.1 That Council notes the minutes of the Advisory Committees listed above which have been distributed under separate cover.

MOTION

12.1.1. That Council notes the minutes of the Advisory Committees listed above which have been distributed under separate cover.

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Seconded: Councillor Neil Newitt

Carried.

12.2. APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS – WOMBAT HILL BOTANIC GARDENS ADVISORY COMMITTEE

GENERAL MANAGER INFRASTRUCTURE

In providing this advice to Council as General Manager Infrastructure, I Bruce Lucas have no interests to disclose in this report.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this report is for Council to appoint members to the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee following the recent resignation of two members.

BACKGROUND

On 23 June 2012, Kythe Mackenzie resigned from the Committee as a Community Representative due to her relocation to France. On 23 July Susan Clabburn resigned as one of the 3 elected representatives for the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens (FOWHBG). These resignations left one vacancy for a Community representative and one vacancy for a representative of the FOWHBG.

ISSUE/DISCUSSION

A call for nominations for the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee was advertised in July 2012.

The Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee Terms of Reference state that the Committee is to be made up of the following:

- 3 members nominated by the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens;
- 3 Community representatives;
- and one Birch Ward Councillor.

Council received one nomination from Gael Shannon to fill the position of the Community Representative. Gael Shannon has previously sat on the Advisory Committee as a representative of the FOWHBG. Gael's changed representation has resulted in a further vacancy being available for the FOWHBG.

Two nominations have been put forward to represent the executive of the FOWHBG and have been received from Michael O'Neil and Stephen Davis.

The selection criteria for nominations as set out in the Terms of Reference states:

The Committee should be a mix of community and skills based members and aim to reflect the diversity of the whole community and a variety of geographic areas.

Community members of the Committee should be able to represent the needs and interests of the whole community and should be able to:

- Demonstrate broad understanding of community needs, concerns and issues relating to botanic gardens and/or landscape on a Shire wide basis;*
- Be able to objectively consider community and botanic/landscape issues;*
- Demonstrate ability to work as part of a team and be solution focused.*

Nominees should:

- Be residents of Hepburn Shire;*
- Be able to demonstrate an understanding of the role of local government in botanic gardens/landscape matters;*
- Be able to communicate effectively with a wide range of individuals, organisations and professionals.*

All three nominations have been assessed against and meet these criteria. The three nominees are from a wide geographic area and have diverse botanic garden interests and backgrounds.

COUNCIL PLAN / LEGISLATIVE COMPLIANCE

Council Plan commitment – 17 Embracing community knowledge and expertise to help guide its decision making and implementation.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Nil

RISK IMPLICATIONS

Nil

ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL / ECONOMIC IMPLICATIONS

The Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee plays an important role in advising Council on conservation management and the future development of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens.

COMMUNITY AND STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

The call for nominations for the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee was advertised in July 2012.

CONCLUSION

Three nominations were received to fill current vacancies on the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee. Nominations have been reviewed against the selection criteria by Council's General Manager Infrastructure and all nominees are deemed suitable for appointment to the Advisory Committee.

OFFICER'S RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 12.2.1 Appoints Gael Shannon as a Community Representative of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee for a period of 11 months, expiring in September 2013 to coincide with the remaining members' appointments.
- 12.2.2 Appoints Michael O'Neil and Stephen Davis to represent the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens for a period of 11 months, expiring in September 2013 to coincide with the remaining members' appointments.

MOTION

That Council:

- 12.2.1. Appoints Gael Shannon as a Community Representative of the Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens Advisory Committee for a period of 11 months, expiring in September 2013 to coincide with the remaining members' appointments.*
- 12.2.2. Appoints Michael O'Neil and Stephen Davis to represent the Friends of Wombat Hill Botanic Gardens for a period of 11 months, expiring in September 2013 to coincide with the remaining members' appointments.*

Moved: Councillor Jonathan Barrell

Seconded: Councillor Rod May

Carried.

13. CONFIDENTIAL ITEMS

13.1. CLOSURE OF MEETING TO MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

That pursuant to the provisions of Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, the meeting be closed to the public in order to consider:

- (d) Contractual matters; and
- (h) Any other matter which the Council or special committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

RECOMMENDATION

13.1.1 That the meeting be closed to members of the public under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, specifically the following sub-sections:

- 89(2)(d) Contractual matters; and

Contract Variations for Contract H271-2011 – Flood Recovery minor Patching including Stabilisation and Sealing of Existing Road Pavement Material

Contract H315-2012 – Panel of Compliant Plant Hire (Wet Hire) Contractors.

13.1.2 89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

13.1.1. *That the meeting be closed to members of the public under Section 89(2) of the Local Government Act 1989, specifically the following sub-sections:*

- *89(2)(d) Contractual matters; and*

Contract Variations for Contract H271-2011 – Flood Recovery minor Patching including Stabilisation and Sealing of Existing Road Pavement Material

Contract H315-2012 – Panel of Compliant Plant Hire (Wet Hire) Contractors.

Contract H344-2012 – Sports Oval Resurfacing, Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve and Community Facility

13.1.2. *89(2)(h) Any other matter which the Council or Special Committee considers would prejudice the Council or any person.*

Moved: Councillor Rod May

Carried.

The Meeting Closed to Members of the Public at 6:23 pm.

14. RE-OPENING OF MEETING TO PUBLIC

RECOMMENDATION

- 14.1 That Council, having considered the confidential items, re-opens the Meeting to members of the public.

PROCEDURAL MOTION

14.1. That Council, having considered the confidential items, re-opens the Meeting to members of the public.

Moved: Councillor Janine Booth

Carried.

The Meeting re-opened to the Public at 7:16 pm

In accordance with Council's resolutions, the following information is provided to the public on the matters resolved by Council during the confidential section of the Meeting.

MOTIONS

That Council:

- 14.1.1. *Accepts all tenders as listed in the Confidential Tender Evaluation Report for the supply of Plant Hire (Wet Hire) to form a panel of compliant suppliers for a period of twelve months with an option for a further twelve months subject to review by Council's Maintenance Manager and Manager Contracts and Procurement.*

*Ableworks P/L
Ballarat Groundworks
Barry Phyphers
Bartlett's Environmental
Butler Excavations
Darren Giacometti
Davis Contractors
Dickerson Bulk Haulage
Fulton Hogan
Global Contracting P/L
Max Burrows Bulk Haulage
N and H Collier Pty Ltd
Pearce Earthmoving
Porter Plant
Services South East Pty Ltd
Skyrider
Steve Hodge Environmental
Taterocks P/L
Thompson Bros Earthmoving.*

- 14.1.2. *Awards the Tender for Contract H344-2012 – Sports Oval Resurfacing, Doug Lindsay Recreation Reserve and Community Facility for the lump sum of \$309,680 which is inclusive of the supply of Santa Anna Couch Turf to Hume Turf & Machinery Pty Ltd.*

15. CLOSE OF MEETING

The Meeting closed at 7:16 pm.
