

Hepburn Shire Council - Candidate Requests for Information Register - Council Elections 2020

| Date | Candidate Requesting Information | Candidates Ward | Subject of Request | Details of Request | File Ref. for Request | Response provided | Response Sent by | File Ref. for Response |
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| 22-Sep-20 | Fiona Robson | Birch | Weed Management Strategy | Could you let me know the status of the weed management strategy that was part of the decision of council when we accepted the spray minimisation report. | DOC/20/50643 | <p>Further to your enquiry last week regarding the development of Council's Weed Management Strategy, I have received the below information from Tristan May, Operations Manager relating to the significant weed management initiatives in place for this year.</p> <p>Council's 2020/21 Weed Management Program incorporates a range of initiatives that officers are currently working on including</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Development of specific Vegetation Management Plans for high profile sites <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Hepburn Mineral Springs Reserve o Lake Daylesford Reserve - Lake Jubilee remedial works including willow removal and revegetation of selected areas incorporating suppressing weeds through natural regeneration practices - Hepburn Mineral Springs – Significant weed and vegetation removal and fuel load reduction works are continuing along Spring Creek. - Revegetation & Mulching of some of key public sites including but not limited to <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Creswick Pump Track o Lake Daylesford o Bourke Square, (Howe Street Fountain) - Annual Roadside Weed & Pest Program <p>Officers will continue to develop Council's broader Weed Management Strategy over the coming year, inclusive of the planning projects mentioned above, the spray minimisation project report presented and received at Council and in association with key internal and external stakeholders.</p> | EA to the Director Infrastructure & Development Services | DOC/20/50643 |
| 28-Sep-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Campaigning | Please can I apply for a permit to erect campaign signs on Council roads? | DOC/20/53148 | <p>In line with Council's Election Period Policy Candidates and their supporters are not permitted to affix, attach or place advertising signs on Council-controlled land or a Council road during election campaigns including during the election period.</p> <p>No permits can be granted for this.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53148 |
| 29-Sep-20 | Gary Carter | Birch | Campaigning | Verbal enquiry regarding campaigning from the laneway between Vincent Street and Coles. | DOC/20/53157 | <p>Following on from your query with respect to who owns/ manages the laneway between Coles and Vincent Street in Daylesford – please see below response.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Laneway between Coles and Vincent Street is private. It is Owned/controlled by whoever owns the Coles development. | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53157 |
| 29-Sep-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Western Victorian Transmission Network Project | What are the Council's views on the Western Victorian Transmission Network project? | DOC/20/53171 | <p>Officers encourage you to review and read Council report and associated council decision at the 15 September Ordinary Council meeting at item 14.1 - WESTERN VICTORIAN TRANSMISSION NETWORK PROJECT on page 210 of the meeting minutes.</p> <p>The agenda and draft meeting minutes from 15 September 2020 Ordinary Council Meeting can be found here https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/For-Website-Public-Minutes-Ordinary-Meeting-of-Council-15-September-2020.pdf.</p> <p>This clearly provides Councils position as detailed in their determination.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53171 |

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| 30-Sep-20 | Don Henderson | Creswick | Campaigning | Verbal enquiry whether a property boundary fence is deemed to be Council managed road reserve | DOC/20/53199 | <p>It is my understanding that a candidate or their supporters should be able to place bill boards on property boundary fences of private property given they have obtained consent from the owner. It is my understanding that the property boundary fence forms part of the persons property. Obviously anything off that boundary fence and pegged into the land outside/around that may not be that persons property and that they would need to obtain consent from the relevant authority to erect that, should it not be Council's land – for example –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner and, if relevant, resident of any private property or business where the poster or billboard is intended to be displayed • The relevant local council about any local laws that may apply to the display of electoral material (includes public and private property) • the Department of Transport (now including VicRoads and Public Transport Victoria) for regulations and rules that apply to the display of electoral material on and alongside freeways, highways and major road corridors, and at public transport locations (buses, bus stops, trains, train stations, trams, and tram stops) • The Department of Education and Training in relation to the display of electoral material on government-owned schools. <p>With respect to council controlled property and the provision around no electioneering material to be erected on council controlled land - you are right - there is nothing in the Local Government (Electoral) Regulations 2020 or the Local Government Act 2020 relating to this –it is set out in the Election Period Policy and is consistent across other Victorian local government agency election period policies.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53199 |
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| 02-Oct-20 | Lesley Hewitt | Birch | Campaigning | Verbal enquiry whether the laneway near friends property was council owned or controlled. | DOC/20/53625 | <p>Thanks for your phone call this afternoon with respect to querying whether the laneway near your friends property was council owned or controlled. You mentioned you had been advised by your neighbour that someone at Council had said to them that it wasn't council controlled property but you wanted to be certain.</p> <p>As discussed, my first recommendation would be to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a look at council's road register https://www.hepburn.vic.gov.au/hepburn/wp-content/uploads/2018/09/Road-Register-Hepburn-Shire-Council.pdf . Please note that just because it may not appear on the register doesn't necessarily mean it is not Council's, the register is only intended to set out where/how Council exercises its responsibilities under the Road Management Act. • Secondly, if you can locate the name of the laneway (or adjacent roads in which the laneway may intersects, or runs parallel to etc and send via email) I can enquire with our internal departments and engineers to assist identifying the land in question • You can also contact the following authorities as detailed in the Election Material Local Government Postal Elections 2020 'Information Series' document as attached. <p>People producing, distributing and displaying posters and billboards should check with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The owner and, if relevant, resident of any private property or business where the poster or billboard is intended to be displayed • The relevant local council about any local laws that may apply to the display of electoral material (includes public and private property) • the Department of Transport (now including VicRoads and Public Transport Victoria) for regulations and rules that apply to the display of electoral material on and alongside freeways, highways and major road corridors, and at public transport locations (buses, bus stops, trains, train stations, trams, and tram stops) • The Department of Education and Training in relation to the display of electoral material on government-owned schools. | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53625 |
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| 06-Oct-20 | Jen Bray | Birch | Western Victorian Transmission Network Project | <p>I understand Hepburn Shire are submitting a strong case to the Environment Effects Statement (EES) required for AusNet Services' Western Victorian Transmission Network Project.</p> <p>However, I am very concerned that without an equally strong show of community support behind HSC, our case will not be heard loud and clear.</p> <p>I am writing to ask for information so I can help Hepburn Shire's case, and rally some community support behind your submission. Can you please give me the relevant dates for hearings or submission deadlines?</p> <p>How can the public make submissions to the EES or relevant assessment process?</p> <p>Who do we send submission to and what is their contact email address?</p> <p>What format should these submissions take?</p> <p>I understand that an Environment Protection and Biodiversity Conservation (EPBC) referral for the project has also been lodged to consider impacts to Matters of National Environmental Significance. The public has an opportunity to provide comments on the referral. Can you please advise how we can do this, and again, what the deadline is and where we should submit comments?</p> <p>As you would be aware, I am running in Birch Ward as a candidate, however, this request has nothing to do with my campaign for council. In fact, the timing of this matter is not great, but I think this Transmission Lines issue will impact on our shire for decades to come and we must act now and decisively to stop overhead transmission lines being approved.</p> <p>I believe the deadline is coming up quite soon, so I would appreciate the chance to make a difference here. Could you please provide the info above so I can send in a submission and encourage others to do so too, and show strong support for council's push to demand the undergrounding of the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project.</p> | DOC/20/53438 | <p>Council officers first met with AEMO in early 2019 and concerns have been raised about the proposed route and its impacts since that time. Officers are also involved in a range of groups advocating for the undergrounding of this network. I can also refer you to the September Council meeting minutes (agenda Item 14.1) where Council considered again considered a report on this matter.</p> <p>You may already be aware of Minister for Planning, Richard Wynne's media release issued on 6 August regarding the EES and I have attached it for your reference if needed.</p> <p>With specific reference to your queries I can advise:</p> <p>Can you please give me the relevant dates for hearings or submission deadlines?</p> <p>This is not currently known by council. The draft EES scoping document is only being developed now and as detailed in the media release, will be made available for public comment. A consultation plan is not available as far as Council is aware.</p> <p>This link references that an EES Consultation plan will be prepared https://www.westvictnp.com.au/planning-approvals</p> <p>DELWP have convened a Technical Reference Group (TRG) as part of its development and Hepburn is represented on the TRG. It is scheduled to have its first meeting this week.</p> <p>How can the public make submissions to the EES or relevant assessment process?</p> <p>We anticipate the process and timelines for making a submission will be advertised as part of public consultation process. There are a series of drop in sessions being promoted at present at a range of locations including Creswick tomorrow. Below is an extract from the website for the Creswick session and a link to the full site for convenience.</p> <p>Creswick – Thursday 8 October 2.00pm – 6.30pm, Mount Prospect Tennis Club, 35 Bridge St, Creswick</p> <p>https://www.westvictnp.com.au/get-involved/</p> <p>Who do we send submission to and what is their contact email address?</p> <p>We anticipate the process and timelines for making a submission will be advertised as part of public consultation process.</p> <p>What format should these submissions take?</p> <p>We anticipate the process and timelines for making a submission will be advertised as part of public consultation process.</p> <p>You may already be familiar with the below website however providing links to them just in case</p> <p>A general email contact for the project for your reference is listed below. 'Western Victoria Transmission Network Project Team'</p> <p><info@westvictnp.com.au>;</p> <p>Council has limited information on the project and continues to raise concerns and advocate on behalf of our community.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/53878 |
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| 09-Oct-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Housing and Homelessness | <p>In the Federal Budget on Tuesday was there any allocation of funds to local Government....Shire Council's?</p> <p>Also is the allocation of funds to create houses for homeless people a local Government, Sate Government or Federal Government matter?</p> | DOC/20/55154 | <p>Please find below a response to your email that sought Councils response to your two (2) questions:</p> <p>1. In the Federal Budget on Tuesday was there any allocation of funds to local Government....Shire Council's?</p> <p>Officers can confirm that there was funding available from the Federal Government to local government.</p> <p>Currently Council is waiting to see the detail through the funding agreement for further and better particulars.</p> <p>Once Officers have further information with respect to the funding agreement, any decision around the allocation of that funding, and what particular projects would be funded, would likely to be determined as part of Council's mid year budge review process.</p> <p>At this point in time Council is still seeking further information around funding guidelines and the like.</p> <p>2. Also is the allocation of funds to create houses for homeless people a local Government, Sate Government or Federal Government matter?</p> <p>All tiers of government, Federal, State and Local have a role to play supporting homeless people in our communities as it is recognised that homelessness is an important issue that affects many Australians. It requires a long-term and systematic effort across agencies, sectors, and the community. While state government usually has primary responsibility for housing and homelessness, often all levels of government work together to tackle the issue.</p> <p>Specific funding allocation would usually come from the State and Federal government.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/55154 |
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| 09-Oct-20 | Jen Bray | Birch | Western Victorian Transmission Network Project | <p>Regarding the report to the Technical Reference Group on Wednesday</p> <p>I went to the Creswick AUSNET information session yesterday and spoke at length with Denis McCron, Project director of Western Vic Transmission Network Project. He told me that all the TRG members would have presented at the Technical Reference Group session on Wednesday.</p> <p>Can you please send me a copy of the report that Hepburn Shire Council delivered to the TRG on Wednesday or direct me to where it sits on council's website?</p> <p>I am confused as to why HSC has put together a report without drawing on input from the community. This is in contrast to Moorabool Council's response which has been to include the community from very early on.</p> <p>Even now, there is no mention of the TRG or it's input into the EES on Council's website. The last update was from 7 August.</p> <p>I understand HSC is frustrated by the lack of information coming from state and federal departments, but local community are equally frustrated by lack of information coming from council on this important issue.</p> <p>Clearly, we could be working together to put a strong case, and the timing for that is before the Draft EES scoping requirements have been developed, not afterwards.</p> <p>Dennis McCron explained that in the coming month, (as is stated in Planning Minister Wynne's media release)</p> <p>"The EES will be completed by the proponent and will assess the comparative effects of different feasible routes, alignments, design and operational alternatives for the project – as well as the effectiveness of proposed measures to avoid, minimise and offset any environmental impacts. "</p> <p>Surely Hepburn Shire council should have called out for community input into this phase of the EES. I understand this is happening fast, but we need to act fast together.</p> <p>Please supply a copy of Hepburn Shire's TRG report as soon as possible, thank you.</p> | DOC/20/55329 | <p>Initial response: Manager Development and Community Safety</p> <p>Unfortunately Denis has incorrectly advised you.</p> <p>We did attend the first TRG on Wednesday 7th Oct, however this was the first session - an information gathering session only so we have not provided any formal feedback or report to the group as yet.</p> <p>In relation to community liaison regarding this project - we have been attending various groups and community sessions including but not limited to the Clarkes Hill district Power Alliance and many sessions as part of our council working group with Moorabool, Ballarat and Melton shire Council staff in attendance.</p> <p>Whilst it is good to hear you have interest in the project, please contact us to discuss what's happening rather than assuming and passing on blame on us that we are not adequately consulting with the community as per your email below.</p> <p>I welcome you to contact me next week to discuss the project and your concerns further.</p> <p>Full response: Manager Governance and Risk</p> <p>Further to Councils initial responses already provided to you, I wanted to provide some further detail. Officers have reviewed your two emails of last week and provide the following information which is aimed at helping you understand the EES Process, Council's role in this process and the significant advocacy Council has undertaken to ensure AEMO, AusNet/Mondo, State and Federal Politicians are aware of Council's position on the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project.</p> <p>Council, at its Ordinary meeting held on Tuesday 15th September 2020, resolved the following:</p> <p>That Council:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. supports renewable energy and the need to access it; 2. demands the undergrounding of the Western Victorian Transmission Network Project; 3. continues to work with other municipalities to convince Federal and State Government of the importance of undergrounding the power line and demands honest and transparent community engagement; 4. continues to work with community groups to get a clear and definite plan of the intended route of the proposed line; 5. makes it known to AEMO, Ausnet/Mondo and Governments the potential damage to the significant landscapes and heritage sites within Hepburn Shire as well as the damage to the rights to productively farm; 6. takes all steps deemed necessary to put a strong submission regarding the Environmental Effects Statement; and 7. states that Hepburn Shire Council fully supports renewable energy in ways that do not cause damage to the Hepburn Shire and residents. <p>Council is supportive of renewable energy and has acknowledged that the transmission lines are critical infrastructure for the future expansion of Victoria's renewable energy generation capacity. Nevertheless, Council is concerned the Project will negatively impact the Hepburn Shire and its community. Further, we have expressed the same concern in relation to the Western Victoria (WestVic) Transmission upgrades and the Victoria to New South Wales Interconnector West (VNIWest) project which are progressing</p> | Manager Development and Community Safety & Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/55329 |
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| | | | | | <p>concurrently with the Project under the leadership of AEMO.</p> <p>Council has been advocating on behalf of the community and raising concerns in relation to this project since early 2019. Unfortunately, when Council is presented with limited information and what information is provided is provided on the basis that it is confidential, it makes it very difficult to inform the community or even release it.</p> <p>Officers have been doing much work on this project in partnership with the other effected councils, various community groups and contacting various Ministers and politicians about our concerns, and this work is ongoing and taking significant officer time.</p> <p>Council has attended virtual information sessions, forums and been an active member of various community groups that have formed as a result of the proposed project. We are participating in discussions with the Clarks Hill District Power Alliance, Save Wattle Flat Community group and have convened a working group of senior Council officers, Councillors and community representatives from the various groups to harness energies and ensure shared knowledge and consistency.</p> <p>Council is a key partner in the work being presented by Moorabool who is the lead for the group of Councils (Hepburn, Moorabool, Melton and recently Ballarat) and we are involved in the various community group discussions as referenced above.</p> <p>In addition, Council and a community representative recently met with the CEO and senior officers of AEMO to raise concerns regarding the process and the short community consultation timelines. I appreciate your comment that the community may be frustrated about the lack of information from Council, however, Council is equally frustrated and we simply have the same information that is available to the public.</p> <p>Whilst we have sought to be advised of information, proposed routes, timelines, plan for approaches and letters to landowners etc, this has not been forthcoming in advance and we are learning of it at the same time as the community. We simply don't have any additional information to share so the assertion that we are merely staying silent or even withholding information is simply not correct.</p> <p>Concerns have been raised continually over an extended period, including via a joint letter dated 28 April 2020 from Moorabool Shire Council, Melton City Council and Hepburn Shire Council to Francisco Vizcaino of Mondo. Our concerns have been largely dismissed with a promise of review at later project stages. Even now, it is not possible to obtain reliable information about the proposed route of the project. Hepburn Shire's position is that Undergrounding of the transmission lines needs to be undertaken. As you will appreciate, this is challenging given a contract has already been awarded for the overhead proposal and the route to be determined by Ausnet / Mondo as part of the contract.</p> <p>With regards to the Technical Working Group (TRG), you are correct, it did meet on Wednesday for the first time and this group is to inform the EES Process only. I have to be very clear that the terms of reference and the</p> | |
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| | | | | | <p>objective of the TRG are to provide comment and advice to DELWP and the Proponent on the various documents being drafted. There was no presentation from councils and the various agencies at the TRG, nor was there a request to do so, nor was it an agenda item. The initial meeting of the TRG was to provide the project background, objectives and the role of members, which is to inform the EES process. It has been made very clear under the terms of reference and in last Wednesday's meeting that all members are bound by the confidentiality requirements of the process and we are not able to share the documents or their content. There are over 40 members on the TRG with vast areas of interest and concern.</p> <p>Jack Krohn from DELWP is leading the EES process and chair of the TRG and I would strongly suggest you make contact with Mr Krohn to discuss the EES process and the role of the TRG. It has been made clear to the membership it is to provide advice – it's NOT a steering committee.</p> <p>The EES Process itself will involve a community engagement process and it is not the role of the TRG members to be canvassing the community views. We are simply not permitted to provide / distribute ANY of the draft documents circulated to the TRG by DELWP or the Proponent. If you have any queries about the EES process there is also a general email contact into DELWP for the EES which is environment.assessment@delwp.vic.gov.au.</p> <p>With regards to your public statement about 'decisions will be made this month about whether or not these giant transmission lines will go underground', Council does not know where this advice has originated from and it is not councils understanding. A contract was awarded back in December 2019 for the above ground infrastructure however the EES may cause this to be reviewed and the position of many councils is the undergrounding option needs to be reconsidered and we continue to lobby for this. The EES process is likely to continue for the next 1-2 years.</p> <p>Council and officers will continue to strongly advocate for, and work with, our community on this significant issue. It has been pleasing to receive correspondence from the community thanking Council for the continued work and support shown of the community around this project.</p> | | | |
| 11-Oct-20 | Celia Waldron | Birch | Outdoor Dining in Vincent Street | <p>Would this not affect local residents in going about their business. And discourage visitors from visiting shops of food and entertainment outlets ? Where would you accommodate those vehicles. ? side streets are taking the overflow now.</p> <p>> Perhaps parking nose to kerb could be investigated . I will get a tape out to see if viable. Maybe two way pedestrian marked on footpaths with painted lines and arrows. Extend foot paths over gutter area . Rather than remove parking carrying life blood (income) to Daylesford. Similarly. Other towns in Shire consider alternatives.</p> | DOC/20/55440 | <p>Thank you for taking the time to contact us and providing feedback relating to Council's COVID Safe approach to the easing of restrictions, your feedback has been provided to Council's internal working group, Executive Management and the Emergency Management Team.</p> <p>The points you raise are similar to those we have considered when developing our Traffic Management Plans for each of the anticipated Phases. These have taken pedestrian flow, footpath and parking options into consideration within these including variations to parking arrangements in the surrounding streets. The Community Safety team will undertake patrols following any parking changes and the first weekend in which metro Melbourne is able to visit regional areas in order to monitor the parking arrangements and impacts in the surrounding streets, and additionally our Economic Development team have been meeting with local businesses around how to best enable access for patrons, but also accommodate pedestrian flow.</p> | Relief, Response and Recovery Officer | DOC/20/55440 |

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| 13-Oct-20 | Celia Waldron | Birch | Campaigning | Verbal enquiry regarding campaign material on property (open space opposite the Vet on Hepburn Road (near the Police Station). | DOC/20/55085 | The property is not Council owned and is privately owned - my recommendation would be that you would need to seek permission from the owner of the property of the land to see whether you are granted permission to put up any campaigning material. | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/55085 |
| 13-Oct-20 | Fiona Robson | Birch | 1 Golf Links Road Hepburn | <p>I have received a number of questions regarding the land on the corner of Golf Links Rd & Main Rd in Hepburn Springs. Apparently, it was sold for \$12,000 or \$13,000 in April this year and is now a planning permit with council.</p> <p>The concerns raised are that Council may be involved. The price seems way below market value and there are rumours that they buyer may have some relationship to a councillor or council officer.</p> <p>Are you able to provide some clarification regarding conflict of interest?</p> | DOC/20/55087 | <p>Initial: I am looking into your enquiry and I will respond when I can provide you with further information to specifics of your email.</p> <p>I can however advise from the outset that the property was not sold by Council.</p> <p>Full response: Following on from the email that I sent yesterday to your query as per below:</p> <p>"...I have received a number of questions regarding the land on the corner of Golf Links Rd & Main Rd in Hepburn Springs. Apparently it was sold for \$12,000 or \$13,000 in April this year and is now a planning permit with council.</p> <p>The concerns raised are that Council may be involved. The price seems way below market value and there are rumours that they buyer may have some relationship to a councillor or council officer.</p> <p>Are you able to provide some clarification regarding conflict of interest?..."</p> <p>I provide the following information based on my understanding that the land you are enquiring about is 1 Gold Links Road, Hepburn.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A briefing report was presented to Councillors in August 2016 (and this should be reflected in the assembly of councillors which is a transparent record of briefing reports presented for this briefing that went to Council) relating to the intention of the owners to sell the vacant land. - No report was presented to Council to purchase the land. - Council were not involved in the sale or purchase of the land. - Due to privacy reasons I am unable to provide the owners of the land at the time /who sold the land and who purchased the land. - If a constituent is interested in obtaining this information then they would need to request the information at a fee and follow the prescribed process. - I do not believe that there is any conflict interest as defined under the Local Government Act 1989 relating to this matter. However if there is concern from any constituent, then they are of course able to present the matter to the relevant oversight agencies, such as: <p>Contact the Victorian Ombudsman</p> <p>https://www.ombudsman.vic.gov.au/reporting-improper-conduct/#who-can-i-report</p> <p>I trust this information is of assistance.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/55333 |

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| 13-Oct-20 | Jen Bray | Birch | Western Victorian Transmission Network Project | <p>I wrote to you last Monday to request information about the process of the Transmission Lines project. Could you please give me an indication of how long it will take for council to get back to me with this information?</p> <p>Since writing to you, I have learned a lot more about the process from my own research, but I still have not seen anything on the council website or facebook page about recent developments since the 7 August EES announcement.</p> <p>The reason I am writing is to ask council to provide more information to the community as to how the EES process works and how and when they can engage in it. This is in order to SUPPORT and add strength your case not to attack council or attribute any blame. (Dates may not be avail, but at least an outline of the process, re the Environmental Effects Act)</p> <p>I am aware that council have been working very hard with community groups for many months and we appreciate your efforts. However, this work has not been publicised on your pages or in the media and the community are largely unaware of what council is doing and what its stance is on the project. This is leading to concern and anxiety from the community who have not been involved in consultations to date. (This project affects all residents, not just those facing land acquisition or direct impact.) Council have a duty to inform ratepayers on issues that affect them.</p> <p>As I stated earlier, I am writing to request that information be shared with the public.</p> <p>Can I request that council publish on the front page of its website links to the following:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The motion passed at the last council meeting regarding council's stance and actions regarding the Transmission Lines. 2. An outline of the EES process, it's timeline, and in particular, reference to the stages at which the public can contribute feedback and submissions. 3. Report on the Technical Reference Group meeting last Wednesday, including the purpose of the group and its membership. 4. Other activities the community can do to assist HSC's case such as writing to Federal and | DOC/20/55350 | <p>I am providing Officers response to your request for information that you sent yesterday, Tuesday 13 October 2020. I advised in my correspondence to you yesterday responding to your earlier enquiries/ request for information that I would be providing the response to those specific questions asked of Officers on Tuesday 13 October as soon as possible. As such, please see officers response:</p> <p>Whilst Council is working under caretaker provisions and need to ensure we do not publish any details of a political nature or regarding potential election issues, we have reviewed the details on our website and we will provide some additional details on the project, including the Council decision from the September Council meeting. Whilst this decision has been publicly promoted previously we will also make it available on the website.</p> <p>We will also provide some general information of the EES process however the project timelines and how / when the community can engage in it is not yet available. When these details regarding timelines, public consultation process and draft documents are made public we will also update our website accordingly however this information is not currently available.</p> <p>As per the response provided to you to date, there is no report that was presented to the TRG and it appears that your advice differs from the TRG meeting agenda and purpose of the meeting. Members of the TRG were not requested to nor provided an opportunity to provide a report as you have indicated below.</p> <p>Hepburn is working closely with Moorabool Melton and Ballarat and the sharing of information is ongoing and we will endeavour to update the content and links to other sites on our website this week.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/55350 |
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state ministers, AEMO CEO, local state and federal members. With relevant contact details provided to assist the community.

5. Links to helpful information so people can understand the impact of overhead and underground transmission lines.

Again, I am simply requesting this information so the community can be well informed, and support Hepburn Shire's case if they wish to. I would hope that council can respond in a timely manner.

Most of the information I have been able to access to date has come from Moorabool Shire's website. I believe Hepburn Shire could take a leaf out of their book in regard to community engagement and communication.

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| 14-Oct-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Subdivisions | <p>I'm meeting with some of the residents of Coomoora on Friday afternoon about the subdivision on the corner of Matts Lane and the Daylesford Malmsbury road.</p> <p>Please can you email me the Council's views on this subdivision and any concerns that residents have?</p> <p>Also many people have asked me about the Hamlet subdivision at Glenlyon. Please can you also email me the Council's views of this and any controversies that may exist.</p> | DOC/20/55441 | <p>The property in question has not been subdivided. The lot layout has existed in its current arrangement it has been found as far back as 1872. (yes 1872, as verified on a title document submitted with a planning application for a house within the area)</p> <p>The land is zoned township and therefore the owners of the land are simply developing the land for residential purposes as has been expected for a significant period of time. At least since 2000 (more difficult to go further back)</p> <p>Coomoora:</p> <p>The property in question has been subdivided recently to realign the boundaries of the lots that similar to the above, have existed in its current arrangement for an extended period of time. 1972 is the oldest reference I can find however I would not be surprised that the land was subdivided initially back in the 1800s as well.</p> <p>The land is zoned low density residential and therefore the owners of the land are simply developing the land for residential purposes as has been expected for a significant period of time. At least since 2000 (more difficult to go further back)</p> <p>Councils views:</p> <p>Officers do not have any views per say. With respect to any application that is lodged, officers look at the relevant planning policy in place at the time of assessment and make a determination of the application by weighing up all relevant policies and making an informed decision based on policy, the advice of relevant service authorities and any submissions made during the notification period of the planning application.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57587 |
| 14-Oct-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Swiss Italia Festa | <p>Has the Hepburn Shire Council given financial or any other type of support to the Italian Swiss Festa in the past?</p> | DOC/20/55442 | <p>The Swiss Italian Festa (SIF) commenced in 1992.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Council first formalised a funding agreement with the SIF in 2010. Prior to 2010, the Festa was supported through various grant programs available at the time on a year by year basis - From 2010 to 2017 - Council provided \$10,000 funding plus \$3000 operational support annually - From 2018 to 2019 - Council provided \$5,000 funding plus \$5000 operational support annually - Currently we are supporting the SIF to develop an Event Strategy, through funding received from Visit Victoria - The committee have expressed that they are keen to negotiate a future MOU with Council for the 2021 event | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/56066 |

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| 14-Oct-20 | Juliet Simpson | Holcombe | Water mining | What is Council's response to The Musk Water Group's concern about water mining and single use plastic containers? | DOC/20/56070 | <p>The responsible authority for the management of groundwater is Goulburn Murray Water. Council acknowledges the importance of groundwater in the Shire for community enjoyment and economic development and as such works with Goulburn Murray Water and DELWP to support the sustainable use of groundwater. An Integrated Water Management Plan is being developed in conjunction with Central Highlands Water and the Strategic Direction Statement (www.water.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/395460/Central-Highlands-SDS-web-version.pdf)</p> <p>Additionally, On 14 June 2019 Director Infrastructure and Development Services Mr Bruce Lucas wrote to Goulburn-Murray Water seeking clarification on a range of matters relating to the monitoring of Aquifers and spring levels – Daylesford Mineral Springs Region.</p> <p>The response provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long term sustainability of groundwater in Daylesford Mineral Spring Region is of high importance which is recognised in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area Local Management Groundwater Plan 2013 (the Plan). • Ground water levels are monitored through the State Observation Bore Network (SOBN) across 47 separate sites in the Plan area, which includes 17 sites within a 5km radius of Daylesford. The observation bores are monitored either monthly or quarterly depending on the requirement for information. Monthly monitoring may take place when further technical information is required or recharge to the aquifer and groundwater /surface water interactions. • The Plan is reviewed annually which includes technical assessment of all groundwater observation levels. If the review identifies an unsustainable drop in water levels due to reduced recharge or over -extraction, Goulburn-Murray Water will consult with the Loddon Campaspe Region Water Service Committee and the community on potential management options which could include introducing restrictions on use. • Long term sustainability of groundwater is the objective of the Plan. To achieve this the Minister for Water has set an overall cap on groundwater entitlement through Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV). • In addition to the PCV, management zone entitlement limits have been applied within the Plan to ensure areas of intensive groundwater development do not occur. • Trading of groundwater entitlement is an important element of groundwater management. It provides licence holders the ability to manage production in response to seasonal demands or climatic conditions and the opportunity for new businesses to develop. • All groundwater trades are assessed under the Victorian Water Act 1989, which ensures that all licence assessments must have regard to potential impacts to environment, surrounding users, aquifers and waterways. Since implantation of the Plan there • There has been minimal trade (Temporary and Permanent) undertaking with 3 megalitres (ML) in 2014/2015, 12 ML in 2016/2017, 25 ML in 2016/2017, 34 ML in 2017/2018 and 0 ML in 2018/2019. • The 2019 Annual Newsletter for the Plan has been completed and can be found on the Goulburn-Murray Water website (www.gmwater.com.au) | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57591 |
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| 16-Oct-20 | Stuart Jones | Creswick | Waste Management | <p>While we wait to convene the Community Reference Group, the issues of how resources are managed at the transfer stations is getting worse. A couple of issues that I believe you should be aware of:</p> <p>1. I was told this week at the Daylesford station that the staff are no-longer allowed to sell items from the steel pile. When and who gave this directive?</p> <p>2. Morale at the transfer station is at an all time low. The staff have made comments that they are nervous about losing their jobs if I (a community member) make enquiries to council management about how the site is run. I believe that we should also include in the community reference group a discussion around staff support services and workplace culture.</p> <p>Something that came across my desk recently was the new Victorian Waste Act and Waste Authority. See link below. https://engage.vic.gov.au/new-victorian-waste-act-and-waste-authority-proposed-model Can you confirm if the current HSC team responsible for managing waste in the shire are participating in the survey? It appears that the current management policy at the HSC transfer stations does not meet the principles of the new Victorian Waste Act. I look forward to ensuring that the ground work gets done so that the management team is ready for the new state legislation.</p> | DOC/20/57593 | <p>Officers response: Thanks for your email to David George regarding the Daylesford Transfer Station. Even though we are in Council Caretaker period, I have followed up on your two concerns below regarding the sale of steel and staff morale at the Daylesford Transfer Station.</p> <p>Tip shops at all transfer stations aim to re-use as many items as possible through sales to community members. Customers are able to purchase any items in the tip shops and staff are always looking for deposited items at the gate that can be re-used, including steel items such as sheets of iron, star pickets etc. If a customer is wanting a particular item of steel, the attendant can retrieve the item if they have time to and it is safe to do so. We encourage customers to speak with an attendant if they are looking for particular items so that they can be put into the shop when they are deposited. Please also note that all steel that leaves the transfer stations is recycled and does not end up in landfill.</p> <p>Following your email, a call was made to the Team Leader to check staff morale. It has been reported that in general morale is good, although staff do from time to time report abusive and threatening behaviour from a small percentage of customers, which is unfortunate. Council supports all staff to report any issues and speak up about any issues that may impact customer service or staff well-being.</p> <p>Regarding the new Victorian Waste Act and reforms, Council has been heavily involved in understanding and identifying opportunities for better waste outcomes. We welcome the commencement of the Reference Group to help understand further opportunities for improvement.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57593 |
| 17-Oct-20 | Fiona Robson | Birch | 1 Golf Links Road Hepburn | <p>There are also concerns regarding the communication process for the planning permit. Apparently the water run off goes to 16 Fourteenth Street and they are concerned regarding the impact on water quality. Could you please advise when the planning permit was provided as well as the communication / notification that was done regarding the planning application, and what was required? I understand the permit has been granted. Is it possible to get a copy of the planning permit with any conditions?</p> | DOC/20/57394 | <p>Planning Permit application PA 2804 was lodged for the construction of a dwelling at 1 Golf Links Drive, 17 June 2020.</p> <p>The application was advertised to 8 surrounding properties. No objections were received.</p> <p>The application was referred to all relevant water supply, sewerage, stormwater referral authorities in addition to the CFA as required by the planning scheme. Conditional consent was provided from each relevant authority.</p> <p>The permit was issued 28 August 2020.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57394 |

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| 17-Oct-20 | Lesley Hewitt | Birch | Water mining | <p>I've had a request for information about water extraction at Musk. While I know that Council does not have responsibility for water extraction, Evan is quoted in the Courier on 5th October 2019 as having written to Goulburn Murray Water as the responsible authority for the management of ground water asking for information about the sustainability and long term viability of aquifers in the region. Has there been a reply or any further information from GMW about the concerns raised by Evan on behalf of the Shire?</p> <p>The article also said that the Council were following up possible breaches of planning permit conditions in relation to the Water extraction at Musk. Is there any further information on that? Is this still an active issue?</p> | DOC/20/57398 | <p>The responsible authority for the management of groundwater is Goulburn Murray Water. Council acknowledges the importance of groundwater in the Shire for community enjoyment and economic development and as such works with Goulburn Murray Water and DELWP to support the sustainable use of groundwater. An Integrated Water Management Plan is being developed in conjunction with Central Highlands Water and the Strategic Direction Statement (www.water.vic.gov.au/__data/assets/pdf_file/0027/395460/Central-Highlands-SDS-web-version.pdf)</p> <p>Additionally, On 14 June 2019 Director Infrastructure and Development Services Mr Bruce Lucas wrote to Goulburn-Murray Water seeking clarification on a range of matters relating to the monitoring of Aquifers and spring levels – Daylesford Mineral Springs Region.</p> <p>The response provided the following information:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The long term sustainability of groundwater in Daylesford Mineral Spring Region is of high importance which is recognised in the Central Victorian Mineral Springs Groundwater Management Area Local Management Groundwater Plan 2013 (the Plan). • Ground water levels are monitored through the State Observation Bore Network (SOBN) across 47 separate sites in the Plan area, which includes 17 sites within a 5km radius of Daylesford. The observation bores are monitored either monthly or quarterly depending on the requirement for information. Monthly monitoring may take place when further technical information is required or recharge to the aquifer and groundwater /surface water interactions. • The Plan is reviewed annually which includes technical assessment of all groundwater observation levels. If the review identifies an unsustainable drop in water levels due to reduced recharge or over -extraction, Goulburn-Murray Water will consult with the Loddon Campaspe Region Water Service Committee and the community on potential management options which could include introducing restrictions on use. • Long term sustainability of groundwater is the objective of the Plan. To achieve this the Minister for Water has set an overall cap on groundwater entitlement through Permissible Consumptive Volume (PCV). • In addition to the PCV, management zone entitlement limits have been applied within the Plan to ensure areas of intensive groundwater development do not occur. • Trading of groundwater entitlement is an important element of groundwater management. It provides licence holders the ability to manage production in response to seasonal demands or climatic conditions and the opportunity for new businesses to develop. • All groundwater trades are assessed under the Victorian Water Act 1989, which ensures that all licence assessments must have regard to potential impacts to environment, surrounding users, aquifers and waterways. Since implantation of the Plan there • There has been minimal trade (Temporary and Permanent) undertaking with 3 megalitres (ML) in 2014/2015, 12 ML in 2016/2017, 25 ML in 2016/2017, 34 ML in 2017/2018 and 0 ML in 2018/2019. • The 2019 Annual Newsletter for the Plan has been completed and can be found on the Goulburn-Murray Water website (www.gmwater.com.au) | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57590 |
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| 20-Oct-20 | Don Henderson | Creswick | Voting Process | <p>I am not sure about you but I find this information a bit unclear and confusing. The other aspect is that post offices will be closed on this Friday, and I think the VEC office will also be closed given it is declared a public holiday. I wonder how many ppl will be trying to sort out voting and will not be able to?</p> <p>On the one hand, there is the expressed need to have your vote posted by 6 pm. On the other, as long as your signature is dated 23 Oct, your vote is accepted. (Latest email from VEC)</p> <p>When I queried the process about the cut off time, I was told that as long as the envelope was post marked 23 Oct the vote would be accepted. So no good putting it into a post box after 5 pm on Friday as it will not be stamped 23 Oct. The post mark seemed to be critical.</p> <p>In Creswick, the post box gets cleared at 5 pm, not 6 pm.</p> <p>I wanted to post up some clarification, but wonder if I should at least get a clear email from the VEC before doing so.</p> | DOC/20/58368 | <p>The Election Office at 1/26 Vincent Street, Daylesford will be open until 6pm on 23 October 2020 (public holiday). I am advised that provided the voter has signed and dated their Ballot Paper return envelope on Friday 23rd October and posted in the mail box prior to 6pm Friday , it will be included in the count</p> <p>However, please note that all advertising and advice to voters does highlight that local clearance times will vary. e.g. see VEC website https://www.vec.vic.gov.au/voting/2020-local-council-election/elections/hepburn-shire-council</p> <p>“Your completed ballot pack must be in the mail or hand-delivered by 6 pm* Friday 23 October *Local mail clearance times vary. Ballot packs must be mailed before final clearance times in the last week of voting. Don't risk a fine”</p> <p>Advice to voters from council should always be to ensure mailing prior to final clearance times.</p> | Manager Governance and Risk | DOC/20/57013 |
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