

14 June 2017

Mr S. Crowe
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Mr Crowe

PROPOSED COUNCIL PLAN SUBMISSION: DECISION

Thank you for your submission on the proposed Council Plan 2017-2021, received 12 April 2017.

All submissions were considered by Council in accordance with section 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* (the Act). The purpose of this letter is to notify you of Council's decision and the reasons for that decision.

Council adopted the Council Plan 2017-2021 at its meeting of 13 June 2017 at Rosebud. No changes were made to the proposed Council Plan directly in response to your submission. Other changes to the proposed Council Plan were made.

Full details of Council's decision can be found in the minutes of the meeting, available at mornpen.vic.gov.au/councilminutes and available for public inspection in accordance with section 222 of the Act.

The Council Plan 2017-2021 is available for public inspection at the Council's offices and is published on Council's website: mornpen.vic.gov.au/councilplan

The following advice is provided in response to the particular points you raised in your submission:

Gateway Park

All adopted Council plans have a number of recommended priority projects and works within them. These projects and works are subject to funding approvals and these must be considered against competing projects in other adopted plans. The Mornington Structure Plan (from 2007) is still the key strategic document that guides future land use and development within the township of Mornington. All future public works within the township of Mornington are considered in the context of the adopted structure plan.

Road funding

Council continues to advocate for a number of improvements on the arterial road network. This includes road safety and congestion management improvements. Recently, successful advocacy has seen Federal Government interest and an investment commitment to improve the Forest Drive/Nepean Highway intersection.

A number of speed limits have been reduced in the past five years to address significant road safety concerns and histories.

In terms of road maintenance, our 15 year Safer Local Roads contract ensures that the general road condition across the Peninsula does not deteriorate. The contract requires the road network was to be handed back to the Shire at the end of the contract period in the same condition as when the contract commenced.



MORNINGTON
PENINSULA
Shire

Parking

Council officers are happy to investigate concerns about parking layouts at existing Shire facilities. Any new Shire facilities carefully consider the needs of parking.

A comprehensive parking study has not been completed for the Mornington commercial area. However, we have observed through parking surveys that there is spare capacity in different areas of the Mornington commercial area. It is not currently a council priority for multi-level car parking in Mornington.

Any new development proposals within this area are scrutinised in terms of parking provision to ensure that they do not adversely impact parking availability.

'Capacity of families and parents to thrive'

While secure income is a very important element in assisting families to thrive, so too are a range of services provided by Council including Maternal and Child Health, Communities that Care, Family Day Care, Best Start and also provision of community facilities, Libraries and information.

Budget objectives

The objectives of *"Achieving an operating and underlying surplus"* and *"Achiev[ing] a balanced budget on a cash basis"* are not contradictory. Council seeks to maximise its operating surplus (recurrent income less recurrent expenses) to ensure adequate funds are available to deliver the capital works program, without the need for additional borrowings. After including the capital works expenditure, Council seeks to deliver a balanced budget; the expenses (including capex) are not greater than the income.

Employee costs

Employee costs are forecast to increase 4% year-on-year in the Strategic Resource Plan. This 4% increase is based on a conservative/modest estimate for wage increases (~2.5%) (subject to change as EBA negotiations are continuing) plus associated oncosts (e.g. WorkCover, long service leave, leave loading)

If you have any further enquiries, please do not hesitate to call me on **5950 1206**.

Yours sincerely

Rebecca Connell
Manager – Corporate Planning and Projects