

## 2.6 Public Question Time

The aim of public question time is to provide an opportunity for the public to ask general questions at Council Meetings requiring routine responses. Questions with or without notice can be submitted.

Questions with notice are to be received in writing by 10.00am the Monday prior to the relevant Council Meeting and can be lodged via the Shire's website. Questions received by this time will be provided with a considered response prepared by the relevant Shire officer and read by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) at the Council Meeting.

Questions without notice must be lodged in person no later than 15 minutes prior to the commencement of the meeting. The question will be read by the CEO and taken on notice with a written response forwarded to the person asking the question within 7 days of the Council Meeting and published on the Shire's website.

This segment does not substitute for appeal or other formal business procedures with the Council.

### Written Responses for Questions Taken on Notice

#### **Libraries**

Frederick Crump, a resident of Hastings asked the following question:

*In days gone by, libraries had a strict code of silence for people to read and study. Libraries have now become a madhouse. Will libraries ever revert to the good old days?*

Mr Crump was provided with the following response:

Public libraries serve the community by providing a safe and inclusive public space with access to information, resources and programs. Like any institution the library has evolved over time to meet the needs of its users.

We try and strike an appropriate balance to ensure that there is space within our facilities for quiet study and research in addition to providing activities that support life-long learning such as author talks and pre-school story times. We do try and minimise noise where appropriate and advertise events well in advance.

#### **Glass Bottle Recycle Bin**

Frederick Crump, a resident of Hastings asked the following question:

*The West Wimmera Shire two weeks ago, introduced another recycle bin for glass bottles only, at no further cost to ratepayers, will this Council follow suit?*

Mr Crump was provided with the following response:

The Victorian State Government announced on 14 April 2023 that the Victorian Container Deposit Scheme will commence on 1 November 2023.

Victoria's Container Deposit Scheme, 'CDS' will allow Victorians to return certain used drink cans, bottles and cartons for a 10-cent refund. The returned containers will be recycled into new products. It is anticipated that a large number of glass drink bottles will be recovered/recycled through this scheme.

Like many Victorian councils the Shire wants to understand what impact the CDS will have on the volume of glass that will end up in the recycling bin from 1 November 2023. This will then help inform what is the most appropriate type of glass collection service to be provided to our community.

From 1 November 2023 and for the following 12 months the Shire will monitor the impact of the CDS on our recycling stream. It is envisaged that this will then assist with a decision in 2025 on the type of glass service to be provided to the community.