MINUTES OF THE MEETING OF SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

held on Tuesday 14 May 2024 commencing at 5.30 pm
in the Council Chambers, 43-51 Tanunda Road, Nuriootpa.

M I N U T E S

Welcome by Mayor Bim Lange declared the meeting open at 5.30pm.

1. ATTENDANCE RECORD

1.1 Members Present

Mayor Bim Lange, Crs Don Barrett, Tony Hurn, Kathryn Schilling, Cathy Troup, Jane Evans (5:39pm), Jess Greatwich, Rick Lane and Heidi Thompson

Apologies

Crs David de Vries and John Angas

Not Present

Nil

Leave of Absence

Cr Bruce Preece

2. DEBATE REPORTS

2.1 Corporate Services and Business Innovation

2.1.1 2024-2025 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET PREPARATION, NEW INITIATIVES AND OTHER RELEVANT DOCUMENTATION AND ANALYSIS

24/39224

MOVED Cr Hurn

That Council having reviewed and considered the relevant Attachments 1 through 4 receive the information and in so doing note the inclusion of all policy, revenue and expenditure settings and approve the following new initiatives for inclusion in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2024/25 financial year:

(1) Sealing of Fife Street Angaston to a two-coat seal and one-way cross fall service level with an estimated construction cost of $398,500 and 10-year cost of $442,892.

(2) Additional fencing at the Tanunda Recreation Park inclusive playground with an estimated construction cost of $15,000 and 10-year cost of $16,913.

(3) Upgrades to security systems for priority building assets with an estimated purchase and installation cost of $25,000 and 10-year cost of $55,256.

SECONDED Cr Troup **CARRIED 2022-26/420**

PURPOSE

To formally receive, consider and approve the business plan and budget policy analysis and settings inherent in the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget 2024/25 and the associated Long Term Financial Plan 2024/25 to 2033/34 update, which is the subject of a separate report to Council.

REPORT

<u>Discussion</u>
The Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP&B) is the state of Council's annual activities in support of the set Corporate Plan targets, service levels and any strategic actions which in turn is structured to support the aspirational vision of the Community Plan.

The financial information contained in this document has been prepared in accordance with Council's Budget and Business Plan and Review Policy and associated processes.

The formulation of the business plan and budget incorporates the work of numerous Council officers and teams which includes:

- budget preparation and input by budget managers
- checking and refining of data input, preparation of general budgets, employee costs etc by the Finance officers
- review and approval by the Executive Leadership Team (ELT).

The input from Council is gained by holding workshops where discussions are held along with decisions at Council meetings, on various parts of the budget preparation and process, which provides direction for officers in the preparation of the draft budget.

The following summarises the discussions held in each of the Council Workshops and Meetings and all relevant documents presented and analysed are at the relevant Attachments:

19 December 2023 – Council Meeting
Endorse 2024/25 process – no attachment, can be viewed at minutes and agenda for that meeting online.

24 January 2024 – Council Workshop
Initial budget initiatives assessment – general conversation – no attachment or presentation was undertaken at this workshop.

7 February 2024 – Council Workshop
Capital Budget – initial capital, salary and wages and budget update.
Attachment 1

20 February 2024 – Council Meeting
New initiatives process – no attachment, can be viewed at minutes and agenda for that meeting online.

6 March 2024 - Initial budget initiatives assessment – deferred from Council meeting of 20 February 2024
Budget new initiatives.
Attachment 2

3 April 2024 – Council Workshop
Full operating budget and other updates.
Attachment 3

1 May 2024 – Council Workshop
New Initiatives, Valuations, Rate Modelling and Long Term Financial Plan – as updated at the workshop.
Attachment 4

Budget Considerations

Draft Budget - Operating and Capital
Council adopts the Budget at a summary level as contained within the attached ABP&B and annual review of the LTFP.

Council General Rate revenue has been increased by:

- A net 4.3% which is the same as the CPI for the March 2024 quarter and less than the Local Government Price Index of 4.8% last updated in December 2023; and
- Growth currently at 0.83% subject to further analysis and revisions, the budget is set at a target of 1%.

Waste Service charges are a net increase for all three services of 4.4%. The refuse, recycling and green organics collection service charges combined will increase from last year at $271 to $282.80 being $11.80.

CWMS Service charge increased at 3.11% including growth to ensure service charge is sustainable. The Residential CWMS Service charge will increase from last year at $386 to $398 being $12.00.

Operating income and expenditure is reflective of service requirements; using last year's budget as a base and adjusted where service costs are affected by agreements, CPI, costs out of our control and/or other factors. Expenditure savings set in the long-term plan associated with prior business case approvals have been met and exceeded.

Depreciation of selected assets has been calculated based on the actual asset base allowing for assets held in work in progress and builds.

Capital Expenditure is $34.156m not including developer donated assets. This amount includes carried forwards approved with the mid-year budget review. Capital Income for grants and contributions is budgeted at $5.74m.

Full Cost Attribution - an allocation of internal services to relevant charge areas has been estimated in the draft Budget/LTFP for consultation and applied to the Waste and CWMS service costs and the services charges. This allocation from internal to external service areas does not affect the overall net result.

New Initiatives (NI)
Assessment of budget initiatives has been completed and forms part of the assessment at Attachment 6 and recommendation of this report. Those recommended for inclusion have been included in the draft Budget and Business Plan.

Draft Long Term Financial Plan

High level financial information is included in the LTFP including key financial indicators (KPIs) with established targets and commentary on expected results and variances, checking Council's financial sustainability. The analysis includes all subsidiaries, updated asset management modelling and general review of indexation factors applied to the LTFP.

Council adopted the previous LTFP in July 2023 and also adopted an updated version as part of the 2023/24 midyear budget review due to material changes and works approved for the Lyndoch Recreation Park redevelopment. The final plan and budget will include the approved quarter 3 budget review and known changes up to the time of issuing the final plan and budget for approval.

The LTFP forecast for forward years includes:

- General rate increases are at 4.3% for years 2025/26 and 2026/27, 3.25% for 2027/28 and 2028/29 and 2.5% for all of the remaining years, plus 1.00% growth in assessment numbers.

- Other operating income and expenditure indexation for future years in the LTFP has been increased to reflect the current inflationary period and expected cost of services especially related to insurance costs.

- Asset Renewal and/or Replacement expenditure is provided for on various buildings, recreation, transport, stormwater, bridge, CWMS and plant & equipment assets at $99.5m providing for future needs until the IAMP renewal programs have been prepared and approved.

- New and upgraded capital expenditure on assets over the 10-year plan period is $43.1m.

- Capital grants and contributions in this review include CWMS developer contributions $50k pa, other developer contributions $142k pa for two years.

- Loan financing is a mix of fixed loans and Cash Advance Debenture (CAD) with net borrowings for 2024/25 to be $17.1m.

- Council's loan debt is predicted to peak at $41.75m in 2025/26. The net loan balance outstanding as at 30 June 2024 is forecast to be $38.03m and a projected balance of $5.75m by 30 June 2034.

- The future years of the CWMS LTFP is forecasting a breakeven operating position, although a reserve is in place which should offset any unexpected costs. This draft CWMS LTFP does not currently make provision for the cost of Capital and/or Risk.

Nuriootpa Centennial Park Authority (NCPA) Board Draft Budget and LTFP
The NCPA budget has been incorporated into Council's consolidated draft ABP&B and LTFP and the changes are as follows:

- Operating income and expenditure amendments to reflect current trends, including future operating costs for TBP projects to start from the 2024/25 year.

- Loans – repayments include:
  - a LGFA fixed loan ending 2028/29
  - Capital Expenditure - changes to renewal and upgrade program spending around cashflow requirements and holding sufficient funds for operations.

In line with Council process, NCPA are required to annually review their asset renewal/upgrade program to ensure any asset expenditure is warranted, checking service level requirements to accommodation capacity, usage and rates.

Summary and Conclusion
Council has reviewed its financial parameters for the LTFP, including the indexation used for forward projections on income and expenditure.

As noted in the Financial Considerations section of this report and the ABP&B, this financial analysis highlights that all KPI's are within the target ranges for this financial year. The LTFP indicates all indicators are within the target ranges except for the 3-year rolling operating surplus indicator for the 2025/26 financial year which is (2.5%) being a deficit position that is outside the target amount of (2%). This indicator is distorted for the 2025/26 year due to the early payment of Financial Assistance Grants that would have normally been paid in the 2023/2024 financial year of $2.085m, paid in the 2022/23 financial year. If the payment occurred in the normal year, being 2023/24, the indicator would be within the range at (1.0%).

Consideration of other major works in future years will require a full review of the LTFP and as required, Due Diligence Reporting processes to check financial sustainability.
The adoption of the Budget is due to be held in early July (date to be confirmed).

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 – Council Workshop 7 February 2024
Attachment 2 – Council Workshop 6 March 2024
Attachment 3 – Council Workshop 3 April 2024
Attachment 4 – Council Workshop 1 May 2024

Supporting references
Annual Business Plan and Budget Policy

COMMUNITY PLAN / CORPORATE PLAN / LEGISLATIVE REQUIREMENTS

Community Plan

Natural Environment and Built Heritage

Community and Culture

Infrastructure

Health and Wellbeing

Business and Employment

Goal

1. The Barossa has sustainable farmland providing diverse and stable returns, while protecting the unique natural environment and biodiversity of the region.
2. The history of our region including aboriginal sites is reflected in our streetscapes and our historic buildings are maintained for future generations.
3. We take a proactive approach in responding to key environmental challenges such as climate change, water security and waste management.
4. The Barossa fosters community resilience, connection and wellbeing through its social planning, recreation, safety, education, preventative health and social strategies especially for our youth and vulnerable people.
5. We are a strong community that is welcoming, safe and enjoys a quality lifestyle that celebrates our local identities, diversities, cultures and histories including our Aboriginal heritage.
6. The Barossa maintains and develops infrastructure that meets the needs of the region and is efficient.
7. Community infrastructure planning is aligned to both current and the future needs of the community
8. To have a connected and safe transport network that meets the needs of our community
9. Our community has fair and equitable access to the resources and services they need to lead a safe, healthy, inclusive and connected lifestyle

10. Our region enjoys the benefits of sustainable community groups, networks and facilities that encourage everybody to participate in the community.
11. The Barossa has a strong local economy that adapts, innovates and thrives on change and strives for a diverse industry base that provides a sustainable range of business and job opportunities for people.
12. We are a visitor destination of choice
13. The Barossa is competitive and in a strong position to attract both private and public investment in the development of new and existing businesses, services and industry.

<u>Strategies</u>

1.1. Ensure land use planning and resource use protects the quality of the natural environment, the existing character of rural landscapes, historic significance and the high value of agricultural land.
1.2. Support tourism development that is sensitive to the natural environment and ensures that the unique character of the rural landscape is appropriately managed and promoted.
1.3. Build on the conservation of the region's natural heritage including bush eco-systems, grassy woodlands, agricultural landscapes and recreational green spaces.
2.1. Continue to maintain streetscapes that reflect the character and heritage of the region and facilitate opportunities to repurpose or find alternative uses of built heritage.
2.2. Ensure clearly defined townships are maintained to manage residential and commercial development that is sensitive to the natural environment and areas of historical significance.
3.1. Support community based sustainability initiatives to help reduce the Barossa's contribution to the climate crisis and build on the capacity of local residents and industry to mitigate negative impacts.
3.2. Collaborate with partners and our community to support innovative approaches to waste minimisation, and increase reuse and recycling opportunities.
3.3. Ensure long term confidence in the Barossa's capacity to access water to meet its industrial, domestic and environmental needs.
4.1. Build on a strong sense of community pride with active community groups and individuals participating in local decision making and community building activities.
4.2. Continue creating strong and sustainable community networks, and support young people to actively participate in the community and develop the leaders of the future.
4.3. Embrace place-making principles when developing community infrastructure and regulate planning and development in public spaces and active recreation.
5.1. Support the development of activities that celebrate the history, art and culture of the Barossa and its people.
5.2. Create places where people want to live and plan for the future in a coordinated, affordable, appropriate and proactive way.
5.3. Create vibrant public spaces that provide places for creative development, cultural interaction and social connections.
5.4. Recognising and celebrating the community successes and learning from opportunities.
6.1. Advocate for and identify funding opportunities that support the development of community, cultural, health and other facilities and

infrastructure to meet personal and commercial needs of residents and businesses.

6.2 Continue to ensure that infrastructure considers place-making is inclusive and accessible for all.

6.3. The use of new and emerging technologies, alternative and renewable materials where appropriate and cost effective will be trailed.

7.1. Build on sound asset management practices to deliver sustainable services to ensure that infrastructure is adequate to support the community.

7.2. Ensure both current and future infrastructure needs are met in a proactive rather than reactive way.

8.1. Support opportunities to increase community transport and access to services and facilities.

8.2. Ensure a high quality road, shared paths and footpath network throughout the Barossa in partnership with all levels of government.

9.1. Work towards combating loneliness and social isolation and ensuring that people enjoy a sense of inclusion and feel connected.

9.2. Promote a healthy community through a planned approach to public health, and sustainable access to allied, primary and mental healthcare services and facilities.

10.1. Children and young people are supported to feel safe and to engage, thrive and feel empowered within the community.

10.2. Advocate for and encourage services that ensure equity and support inclusion and at risk members of the community.

10.3. Build on the capacity of community members to participate in cultural, creative, recreational, sporting and learning opportunities.

11.1. Work closely with State Government, Federal Government and other key stakeholders to support economic growth, development and job creation.

11.2. Support proactive population growth that is incremental, well managed and is backed up by local planning and development opportunities.

11.3. Promote the Barossa as a place for business's to thrive, invest, innovate, take measured risks and prosper.

12.1. Encourage and support the sector to further promote and develop tourism experiences including ecological, cultural and agricultural tourism.

12.2. Support economic development and destination awareness through events, festivals, creative enterprise and attractions.

12.3. Provide experiences and infrastructure that continue to support the needs of the tourism market.

13.1. Foster small business and industry confidence and growth that translates into innovation and strong employment figures.

13.2. Attract investment for new and innovative industries, and facilitate business growth by supporting local industry and their capacity to compete for government contracts.

Advocacy Plan
Nil

Legislative Requirements
Local Government Act 1999
Local Government (Financial Management) Regulations 2011, Regulation 9(1)(b)

FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND RISK MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

The adoption of the Budget is required between 1 June and 15 August.

Financial Indicators and Sustainability
Financial performance is managed using suitable financial indicators and targets, as follows:

- KPI1 - Operating Surplus - a cumulative surplus by year 10.
- KPI2 – Operating Surplus Ratio, Target - range (2%) to 10%.– Note: outliers including the timing of Federal grant payments and other unplanned events can create one-off deficit results outside of the target range.
- KPI - No. 3 Net financial liabilities (NFL) ratio is greater than zero but less than 100% of total operating revenue.
- KPI - No. 4 Capital outlays on renewing/replacing assets net of proceeds from sale of replaced assets is greater than 80% but less than 110% of Infrastructure Asset Management Plans over a rolling three-year period.

Financial Indicators report for the draft LTFP expected results are:

- Operating Surplus - a deficit for years 2024/25 to 2025/26 returning to surplus in 2027/28 and a 10-year position of a surplus of $10.062m.
- Operating surplus ratios average over 3 years. Council's forecast retrospective results range from (2.5%) to 3.2%.
- Net Financial Liabilities forecast is 88.6% in 2024/25 and peaks at 91.7% in 2025/26 and by year 2033/34 is projected to be at 16.8%.
- Asset Renewal Funding Ratio target is being met over the 10-year period, the average being 108.6%.

There are no additional or abnormal risk considerations or additional resource requirements for the preparation, implementation, and management of the budget, business plan and other related activities.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

The public consultation period will commence from 15 May 2024 and closes on 7 June 2024 at 5pm. Verbal submissions will be considered at a meeting on 6 June 2024, held at 5.30pm, providing one hour for members of the public to ask questions and make submissions in relation to the AB&BP and annual review of the LTFP.

Submissions will also be accepted by the following methods:

- via Council's engagement platform at yoursay.barossa.sa.gov.au,
- via Facebook www.facebook.com/thebarossacouncil,
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- in writing.

Public submissions will be considered by Council after the consultation period has ended, at a Special Council Meeting to be called soon after submissions close.

The LTFP is incorporated within the ABP&B to ensure the two Plans align. This enables the community to be involved in the short and long term planning of Council's Budget.

2.1.2 DRAFT ANNUAL BUSINESS PLAN AND BUDGET 2024/25 INCORPORATING THE LONG TERM FINANCIAL PLAN 2024/25 – 2033/34
24/39221

MOVED Cr Barrett

That Council:

(1) Endorses the draft 2024/25 financial year Annual Business Plan and Budget as at Attachment 1, which incorporates the annual review of the draft Long Term Financial Plan for the period 2024/25 to 2033/34, and all subsidiary entities, for the purpose of community consultation.

(2) Noting the consultation process outlined in the report and Attachment 2, approves the consultation period being from 15 May 2024 to 7 June 2024 closing at 5pm.

(3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to make any minor and typographical corrections to the Annual Business Plan and Budget document.

SECONDED Cr Hurn **CARRIED 2022-26/421**

PURPOSE

Having reviewed and determined the budget and new initiatives settings and analysis, the purpose of the report is to adopt the draft Annual Business Plan and Budget for the 2024/25 financial year and the incorporated Long Term Financial Plan for community consultation.

REPORT

The Annual Business Plan and Budget (ABP&B) 2024/25 incorporates the Long Term Financial Plan (LTFP) 2024/25 to 2033/34 in the one document.

The financial information contained in this document has been prepared in accordance with Council's Budget and Business Plan and Review Policy and associated processes. This has been considered by Council at the report prior to this report.

The draft plan is at Attachment 1.

Council has reviewed and considered all operating, capital, new initiative, valuation, rating assessment and long term financial parameters and determined its draft settings.

As noted in the Financial Considerations section of this report and the ABP&B, this financial analysis highlights the KPI results and forecast position based upon the assumptions therein.

ATTACHMENTS OR OTHER SUPPORTING REFERENCES

Attachment 1 – Draft 2024/25 Annual Business Plan and Budget
Attachment 2 – Communication Plan

Supporting references
Annual Business Plan and Budget Policy

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<u>Advocacy Plan</u>
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3. NEXT MEETING

Tuesday 21 May 2024 at 5.30pm

4. CLOSURE

Mayor Lange declared the meeting closed at 5:39pm.

Confirmed at Council Meeting on 21 May 2024

Date:………………………………. Mayor:………………………………….