

Candidate Request for Information Register

As at 5 October 2016



Date requested	Name of Candidate	Information requested	Date of response	Information provided
25/09/2016	Jay Smith	<p>Question 1: When does Council intend to begin collecting green waste and organics from households?</p> <p>Question 2: How much is the landfill currently costing Council?</p> <p>Question 3: Does Council have the capacity to fund the aquatic centre from its reserves?</p>	28/09/2016	<p>Question 1: When does Council intend to begin collecting green waste and organics from households? Council is committed to reducing the volume of organic material ending up as landfill and to investigating option for the management of organic waste, however there is no date set for commencing a collection of organic waste. Waste Futures contains a recommendation that Council monitor the green waste trial at the City of Greater Bendigo with a view to investigating the provision of a similar service for urban areas of the Shire in the future. The Waste Futures document is available on our website at http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=2426.</p> <p>Question 2: How much is the landfill currently costing Council? The cost of operating a landfill includes; daily operational costs, labour, environmental monitoring and auditing, and EPA levy payments based on the tonnage or volume of waste received. There are also significant capital costs. For example, the cost to construct the current (active) landfill cell was a multimillion dollar capital works project. There are also large costs involved in post closure care and remediation of landfill 'cells', such as the current 'cell capping' project. Rather than seeing the operational and capital costs separately, it is best to look at waste management costs holistically as it is an integrated service from the provision of bins through to collection, and then to landfill or recycling. The 2016-2017 Budget provides \$8.03 M in total for waste management, comprising \$4.14M operating costs \$3.89M of capital costs. This cost is offset by \$4.86M revenue from waste and landfill charges. See the 2016/2017 Budget for more detail, available on our website at http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Page.aspx?Page_Id=2364.</p> <p>Question 3: Does Council have the capacity to fund the aquatic centre from its reserves? Council currently has \$3.1M in a reserve allocated to assist in the funding of the new aquatic centre. The current funding strategy for the additional funds includes borrowings, as well as Government grants. The contributions needed were outlined in a report to Council at its Ordinary Meeting on 24 November 2015, see page 21 of the Agenda on our website at http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Page/Download.aspx?c=8273.</p>
28/09/2016	Jay Smith	Question: How many outstanding planning permits are there now compared to this time last year?	4/10/2016	<p>Below is our response to your question regarding the number of outstanding planning permit applications.</p> <p>The term 'outstanding' is not a planning term, we refer to live files (those applications that have not been assessed) and completed files (where a decision has been made).</p> <p>Council currently has 118 'live' files. We do not keep records of how many 'live files' we had at the same time last year. The Planning Permit Activity Reporting System (PPARS) website keeps historical information which may be of assistance. This website can be searched here - http://www.dtpli.vic.gov.au/planning/planning-applications/planning-permit-activity-in-victoria/planning-permit-activity-reporting-system-ppars.</p> <p>You are also able to search Council's planning application Greenlight for information on current applications via our website here – http://www.mountalexander.vic.gov.au/Lodge_or_track_an_application_Greenlight.</p>

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3/10/2016	Jay Smith	<p>Question: How much did the landfill cost to run in the 2015/16 financial year?</p> <p>Question: When does Council intend to continue community consultation on the Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan?</p>	13/10/2016	<p>Question: How much did the landfill cost to run in the 2015/16 financial year? Answer: Council has engaged the services of a contractor to operate the Castlemaine and Maldon waste management facilities. The total net operational cost of the landfill (excluding depreciation), taking into account revenue received, the contract, additional equipment, landfill monitoring and auditing, and site maintenance required for the Castlemaine and Maldon waste management facilities for 2015/2016 financial year was approximately \$920,000.</p> <p>Question: When does Council intend to continue community consultation on the Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan? Answer: The Waste and Resource Recovery Action Plan is a key strategic task from the Environment Strategy 2015-2025. The draft Action Plan has been to one round of community consultation and will be progressed in the coming months once Council can consider specialist advice that is being prepared regarding the strategic direction of landfilling operations in Castlemaine. Council looks forward to presenting a final draft of the Action Plan and receiving feedback from the community.</p>
4/10/2016	Jay Smith	<p>Question: What strategies does Council have in place to ensure that actions in the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2020 are completed by 2020?</p> <p>Question: How is Council currently working with VicRoads to ensure cyclist safety along Barker Street, Castlemaine?</p> <p>Question: How is Council currently working with VicRoads to ensure they maintain existing bike lanes and also develop new bike lanes?</p>	13/10/2016	<p>Question: What strategies does Council have in place to ensure that actions in the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2020 are completed by 2020?</p> <p>Council reviewed the actions in the Walking and Cycling Strategy in 2014, in consultation with the Walking and Cycling Advisory Committee. Council adopted a Walking and Cycling Reporting Framework on 9 September 2014, to “ensure the prioritisation of all infrastructure delivery (bike lane, footpath and trail) projects is clear and provide an agreed framework for reporting on implementation of all tasks in the strategy”. The Council report noted that some projects in the strategy would not be pursued as they are “duplicated task, too broad or vague to be progressed, too costly to implement, unable to be achieved, or not directly a walking and cycling initiative”. The Framework is used to report progress against the Strategy to Council and the community.</p> <p>Council officers work through the recommendations in the Walking and Cycling Strategy 2010-2020 revised in 2014 and each year provide budget submissions that are considered by Council during the budget process. Each submission is based on value for money, value to the community and existing surrounding infrastructure.</p> <p>Question: How is Council currently working with VicRoads to ensure they maintain existing bike lanes and also develop new bike lanes?</p> <p>Council meets bi-monthly with VicRoads staff to discuss both planning and construction issues through-out the Shire. Bike lanes are discussed at these meetings when issues arise.</p> <p>Question: How is Council currently working with VicRoads to ensure cyclist safety along Barker Street, Castlemaine?</p> <p>During bi-monthly meetings with VicRoads, and otherwise as necessary, Council officers highlight areas of concern for cyclist, pedestrian and motorist safety on all VicRoads roads across the Shire, including Barker Street, and these matters are considered and responded to by VicRoads in accordance with its adopted Road Management Plan.</p>

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7/10/2016	Dave Petrusma	<p>In relation to the Castlemaine to Maldon Rail Trail I note that the Victorian State Government has funded an amount of \$1,011,000 and that council awarded at tender for construction to the amount of \$802,028. I have two questions.</p> <p>Is Mount Alexander Shire contributing financially or 'in kind' to this project?</p> <p>Will existing access for rail maintenance vehicles, registered 4 wheel drives and trail bikes also be maintained along the length of the track?</p>	13/10/2016	<p>Question 1: Is Mount Alexander Shire contributing financially or 'in kind' to this project?</p> <p>Answer The Castlemaine to Maldon Trail project is entirely externally funded by a grant received from Regional Development Victoria.</p> <p>Question 2: Will existing access for rail maintenance vehicles, registered 4 wheel drives and trail bikes also be maintained along the length of the track?</p> <p>Answer Rail maintenance and emergency services vehicles will retain the right to access the trail. The general public will no longer have vehicular access, there will be gates installed at key locations, however trail bikes will be allowed access to the trail.</p> <p>Council has released information to the media regarding this matter, please see the response to a media enquiry below.</p> <p>Media enquiry - Midland Express Castlemaine to Maldon Rail Trail - 13 September 2016 Council received State Government funding from Regional Development Victoria to design and construct the 17.7 kilometre Castlemaine to Maldon Trail. The trail will appeal to local walkers and cyclists and attract tourists to the region. To help increase safety and improve the user experience, gates will be in place along the middle sections of the trail to prevent vehicle access. The trail will remain open to registered vehicle traffic at the Castlemaine and Maldon ends. Advisory signage will be in place to advise the trail is shared between vehicles, bikes and pedestrians. The trail has been designed using new paths and existing access tracks to help to minimise costs. This will allow project funds to be directed towards enhancing trail features such as development of a boardwalk near Muckleford Station. Council understands community concerns about emergency access and is working with emergency services to ensure adequate access is maintained. The trail will be closed on days declared Code Red and Extreme Fire Danger. Emergency markers will installed at 500 metre intervals to help pinpoint locations along the trail during an emergency. The construction of a proposed track behind Sawmill Road in Muckleford is not included in the current plans. The trail is scheduled for completion by the end of November, weather permitting.</p>