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Cover image – 'Curious neighbours cows'. One of the winning 2020 #MyCampaspe photo competition entries by Sheryn Martin.



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Campaspe Times Newsletter

April 2021

Key documents out

In the first six months of the new council, we have been busy completing our mandated training program, which I am pleased to say was completed ahead of the 30 June timeframe. Some of the topics included were understanding roles and responsibilities; the standards of conduct; gender equity, diversity and inclusiveness; and overarching governance principles.

We now have two important documents out for community comment, the proposed 2021-22 Budget and the Revenue and Rating Plan.

Despite the Victorian Government's imposed rate cap of 1.5 per cent, Council has managed to maintain current services within the operating budget and put together a large capital works program valued at \$28.4 million. Details about the budget and projects to be delivered are on pages 2 and 3.

The Revenue and Rating Plan is a new requirement under the Local Government Act 2020. Council provides more than 100 services to the community, builds and maintains community facilities and infrastructure, and support the community, business, agricultural and tourism sectors to strengthen the vibrancy, resilience

and prosperity of the shire. We must, therefore, collect revenue to cover the costs of delivering these services and activities.

The plan does not set revenue targets, rather it outlines how Council will calculate and collect the revenue it needs in the most appropriate way. Details about the draft Revenue and Rating Plan are on page 6.

Comments on these two documents close on Friday, 14 May and I encourage the community to have a look and provide feedback.

Our extensive community consultation program 'Campaspe: Thriving Together' is progressing, with community sessions now completed. An update on this program is on page 8.

As COVID restrictions change, Councillors have started to get out and about in the community, joining many events and occasions. Recently we resumed the hosting of Australian citizenship ceremonies, and in April, I was delighted to welcome seven new citizens.

Cr Chrissy Weller
Mayor



Mayor Chrissy Weller centre with seven residents receiving their Australian citizenship, joined by Damian Drum MP (left) and Peter Walsh MP (right).

Have Your Say! 2021-22 Budget

Campaspe residents still have time to provide feedback on Council's proposed 2021-22 budget, on display until 5pm on Friday, 14 May.

"The budget allows for all current services to be maintained while adhering to the Victorian Government's 2019-20 rate capping constraint of 1.5 per cent," Cr Weller said.

"The budget has been carefully prepared, over the past six months, by councillors and staff. It is financially responsible and continues to deliver all existing services at current service levels."

The budget links to the foundations of the Council Plan, a four-year plan setting the strategic direction for Council.

"I encourage members of the community to review the proposed 2021-22 Budget and provide any feedback to help inform the final version of the budget for Council's consideration on 16 June."

The proposed budget is available on Council's website www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/haveyoursay or in hard copy at each customer service centre.



Budget fast facts	1.5% rate increase	\$81.9 million budget	\$10.8 million to roads	\$28.4 million capital works
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Where every \$100 goes



Capital works

Roads. Total \$10.8 million

Including:

Gravel resheeting of local roads	\$2,500,000
Resealing of local roads	\$1,100,000
Resheeting gravel road shoulders	\$1,000,000
Sturt Street, Echuca, road and drainage works	\$1,714,500
Fenaughty Street, Kyabram	\$686,000
Senior Citizens and Kindergarten carpark, Rushworth	\$250,000
Torrumbarry Weir Road, Torrumbarry, safety works	\$429,500



Recreation. Total \$1.1 million



Including:

Kyabram Recreation Reserve, netball court & cricket boundary net	\$670,000
Echuca & District Netball Courts, seat replacement	\$20,000
Rochester Recreation Reserve, Moon Oval lighting design	\$30,000
Kyabram Northern Oval, upgrade to oval drainage	\$45,000
Netball courts asphaltting & flexi-pave, Lockington, Toolleen, Victoria Park & Gunbower	\$305,000

Public buildings. Total \$2.7 million

Including:

Victoria Park, Echuca, design for changerooms	\$80,000
Echuca & District Livestock Exchange, various works	\$507,000
Tongala Tennis Clubrooms, design for roof, floor, brickwork works	\$45,000



Footpaths & cycleways. Total \$4.2 million



Including:

Footpath replacement program	\$733,500
Breen Avenue, Kyabram, 1.8km walking/cycling trail	\$440,000
Construction of 'missing link' footpaths	\$1,100,000

Stormwater & flood control. Total \$860,000

Including:

Replacement rural road culverts	\$520,000
Open drain replacement program	\$310,000
Rutley Crescent, Echuca, design for drainage upgrade	\$30,000



Many projects are funded over multiple years. The capital works figures indicate the amount budgeted in the 2021-22 year **only**.

Project update



The annual capital works program continues with works across the shire on roads, footpaths, bridges, drains and open spaces. The Project Management team has been kept busy with 18 completed projects and 77 underway, 30 of which are in the delivery phase. Below is a snapshot of some projects currently in the project cycle:



Lions Park, Gunbower redevelopment

Design

Designs are nearing completion for the redevelopment of the park, on the foreshore of the Gunbower Creek to include accessible footpaths, canoe launching platform, natural play space, BBQ and shelter, tractor relocation, and supporting park infrastructure.



Finlay Road, Tongala road construction

Completed

Works to resurface the road, between Palmer and McEwen Roads, have been completed.



Road resealing program

Delivery

The first stage of Council's annual road resealing program has been completed, with some additional roads to be resealed before 30 June.



Murchison Road, Rushworth open drain replacement

Completed

Replacement of the open drain on Murchison Road, Rushworth has been completed.



Footpath replacement program

Delivery

Works are ongoing across the shire to replace or construct 'missing link' footpaths. Pictured, completed footpath at McGowan Street, Tongala.

Explore Southern Campaspe

It's great to see events back on the calendar, with groups planning their activities in line with the State Government's COVID Safe requirements.

Across the past six months, staff have completed an online event application to assist community groups in developing their events. The online form captures all event information, provides links to websites for assistance, with the ability to upload supporting documents, such as insurance, site plan, and COVIDSafe Plan.

To meet COVID requirements, public events are now assessed according to their scale, complexity and associated risk factors. A three-tiered system is in place and event organisers are required to complete a Public Event Self Assessment Tool to determine which tier the event fits into to. Event organisers are required to register their event with the Victorian Government.

Council supports events by offering in-kind support including additional waste services, traffic management and temporary event fencing and

bunting. This in-kind support is provided at no cost, however the new online event application assists event organisers by calculating the amount and shows the requested in-kind contribution by Council.

To support events, Council has an ongoing event sponsorship grant program, and community groups are encouraged to apply at least three months prior to their event, if financial support is required. In addition, Council has a variety of other grant programs which may be more suitable.

Support is also available through Council's Event Support Officer, Belinda Owen.

#lovewhereyoulive



Temporary event fencing in use at the Rochester Mural Festival.

Helpful website links:

Campaspe Shire online event application and information:

www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/events

Campaspe Shire grants: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/grants

Information to help organisers meet COVID safety requirements:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/public-events-information-for-organisers

Public events self assessment tool:

www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/public-event-self-assessment-tool

Register your event: www.coronavirus.vic.gov.au/register-your-public-event

What's on A listing of upcoming events across our region. Events may be cancelled or amended at short notice, pending changes to COVID restrictions and approvals.

Saturday, 1 May

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Sunday, 2 May

Echuca Moama Bridal Events 'Tie the Knot Festival' - Echuca racecourse, Scott Rd, 0409 173 376

Community Concert Series featuring Simon Marks - Gunbower Reserve, 0420 381 216

Saturday, 8 May

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet - Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd, 0491 680 977

8-22 May

Moama Lights - Horseshoe Lagoon, Moama - 1300 087 004

Sunday, 9 May

Girgarre Farmers' Produce and Craft Market - Girgarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve, 5854 6283

Girgarre Mother's Day Classic - Progress Park, Station St, 5854 6482

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Monday, 10 May

Echuca Races - Echuca racecourse, Scott Rd, 5482 2487

Saturday, 15 May

REHF Rushworth Market - High St, Rushworth, 0402 576 103

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Sunday, 16 May

Community Concert Series featuring Simon Marks - Girgarre Hall, 0420 381 216

Tongala Eats & Beats - Tongala Soundshell Gardens, 0438 300 225

Saturday, 22 May

Jigarre Jammin - Girgarre Memorial Hall, 5854 6283

Rochester Town Market - Rochester Town Hall & Market Reserve, 0409 075 074

Rushworth Speedway Race Meet - Rushworth Speedway, Nine Mile Rd, 0491 680 977

Thursday, 27 May

Girgarre Biggest Morning Tea - Girgarre Community Cottage, 27 Olympic St, 5854 6482

Echuca Harness Racing Club - Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie St, 5482 2036

Monday, 29 May

Echuca Races - Echuca racecourse, Scott Rd, 5482 2487

Saturday, 5 June

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

5-6 June

Victorian Women's Par 3 Championships - Kyabram Parkland Golf Course, Racecourse Rd, 0419 565 797

Sunday, 6 June

Community Concert Series featuring Simon Marks - Nanneella Hall, 0420 381 216

Saturday, 12 June

Echuca Moama Rotary Family Fun Day - Rotary Park, Rose St, Echuca, 0417 609 458

Victorian Men's Par 3 Championships - Kyabram Parkland Golf Course, Racecourse Rd, 0419 565 797

Sunday, 13 June

Girgarre Farmers' Produce and Craft Market - Girgarre Memorial Hall & Park Reserve, 5854 6283

Stanhope Monster Garage Sale - Birdwood Ave, 5857 2866

Saturday, 19 June

REHF Rushworth Market - High St, Rushworth, 0402 576 103

Echuca Farmers' Market - Aquatic Reserve, Echuca, 0437 746 459

Sunday, 20 June

Community Concert Series featuring Simon Marks - Rushworth Memorial Hall, 0420 381 216

Wednesday, 23 June

Echuca Harness Racing Club - Frank Ryan Raceway, Simmie St, 5482 2036

Saturday, 26 June

Jigarre Jammin - Girgarre Memorial Hall, 5854 6283

Rochester Town Market - Rochester Town Hall & Market Reserve, 0409 075 074

25-27 June

8th Waranga Winter Film Festival - Rushworth Memorial Hall, 0456 529 248

26-27 June

Nissan Nightmoves Trial, Whroo Forest Area/ Rushworth/ Heathcote, 0409 347 785

Sunday, 27 June

Echuca Gets its Glow On - Echuca Rotary Park, Rose St, Echuca, 0433 397 707

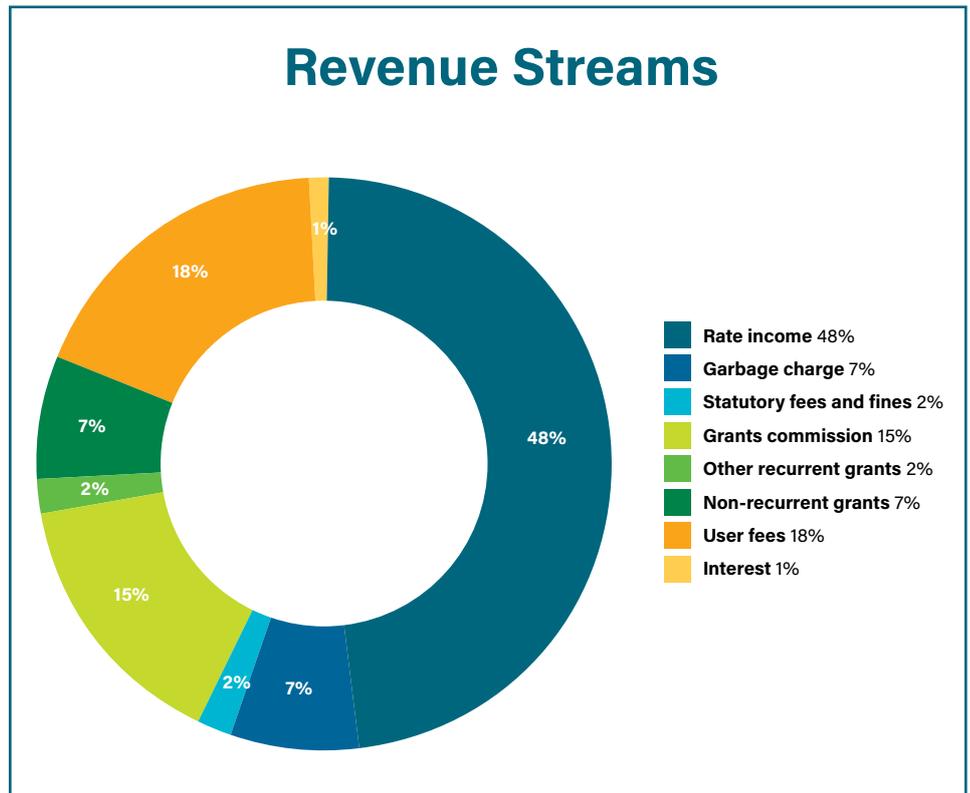
Register your community event. Free website event listing is available to community groups within the shire.
Register at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Have your say! Revenue and Rating Plan

Council's first ever draft Revenue and Rating Plan has been released and the community is invited to provide feedback through to 5pm on Friday, 14 May.

The plan is a requirement of the new Local Government Act 2020, which mandates all Victorian councils prepare a Revenue and Rating Plan following a council election. It details Council's revenue-raising framework for the four-year term of the current Council and includes how this funding will be apportioned among ratepayers, and other users of Council facilities and services.

The plan sets out rating options available to Council under the Act to ensure the fair and equitable distribution of rates across property owners. It also sets out the principles underpinning decision-making for other revenue sources such as fees and charges.



The Revenue and Rating Plan is available to view at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/revenueplan and an online feedback form is available to capture comments.

Order a green bin for your food scraps and garden waste today...

You may even reduce your annual waste charges, while doing your bit for the environment.

Order online at campaspe.vic.gov.au or call 1300 666 535, or scan the QR code:



You'll also get your choice of a FREE food scrap caddy.

Renting? That's ok. Speak with your real estate agency, landlord or property owner to order your green bin.



Wicked SURVEY

5 prizes to be won

- 1) An Apple iPad, \$500 value
- 2) Recycled garden bed, \$220 value
- 3) Zero waste pack, \$100 value
- 4) Echuca Paramount voucher, \$60
- 5) Twisted science voucher, \$60

Scan to enter:
Or go to Council's website

Survey closes Monday, 31 May

Out and about

With COVID restrictions easing, Councillors and staff are now getting the chance to get out in the community, attending various events. Below is a snapshot of what they have been up to.



Cr Rob Amos participated in the monthly EMFM radio program, chatting to host Ron Wood, about a range of Council topics. The program is on the first Friday of each month, starting at 10am for one hour.



Celebrating International Women's Day, LR, organising committee member Judy Campbell, Author Favel Parrett, Mayor Chrissy Weller, Peter Walsh MP, Author Dr Angela Savage and Library Services Manager Jenny Mustey.



(LR) Jenny and Glen Ross, with newly conferred Australian citizen and Wyuna resident, Gowtham Dharmaraj and Cr Colleen Gates.



Cr John Zobec preparing for a video with Communications Officer Chris Hawking. Each councillor has completed a video, introducing themselves, now available to view on Council's website.

Council Meetings

Council meetings are streamed live on Council's website. Due to ongoing COVID restrictions, only a limited number of people can attend the meeting and the agenda is available the Friday before each meeting.

Please refer to Council's website for full details.

Upcoming meetings



Register Your Community Group

Free website listing available to community groups in Campaspe Shire.



Register now at www.campaspe.vic.gov.au

Service profile

#campaspeservices

Community Programs

Community Programs work in partnership with local organisations to design, develop and support projects that aim to improve the health, wellbeing and connectedness of the community.

The following provides a snapshot of the diverse array of projects currently underway.

We hear YOUth

Supporting the establishment of a pool or team of trained youth peer interviewers to assist other young people to express their opinions and ideas on DHHS funded place-based projects, social policy and services.

Community Activation and Social Isolation Program

Development of food bank services in partnership with Rushworth Community House and others to address an identified community need.

Access at a Glance

Providing support and creating a partnership between Council, Intereach and Echuca Twin Rivers Specialist School VCAL students



We hear YOUth members met to discuss what Council needs to focus on and prioritise as part of the Campaspe: Thriving Together project.

to promote accessibility within the participating businesses.

Access to Mental Health Services

Development of a "Keeping Mentally Well" flyer detailing local mental health supports and services, in partnership with Campaspe Murray Mental Health Network.

Business Security Program

Distribution of an information kit in partnership with Victoria Police, so businesses can self-assess their security.

Active Transport Program

Supporting programs that encourage schools and businesses to participate in active means of travel to work, school, sporting and social commitments; for example, National Ride2School Day.

Access and Inclusion Strategy and Action Plan

Providing advocacy, education and awareness-raising support to create a more accessible and supportive Campaspe.

Campaspe: Thriving Together

Council started an extensive community consultation program focused on what you think Council needs to focus on and prioritise earlier this year.

Across the past two months 12 open community workshops and four pop up sessions have been held, as well as 10 targeted industry workshops, attracting more than 250 people. In addition, 240 staff also participated in the program and an open online survey captured more than 350 responses.

Staff are now collating all the data collected for Council to make informed decisions on the key priority issues facing Campaspe over the next 20 years.

In May, we will come back to the community to ensure the draft Council Vision, reflects community sentiment.

For more information about this project, visit webpage: www.campaspe.vic.gov.au/futurecampaspe

