



Jamieson Community Group & Assoc. Bodies Inc.

Registered Number A0016504U

ABN 95 167 814 734

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M/s K. Conrick,
Chief Executive Officer,
Mansfield Shire Council,
Private Bag 1000,
MANSFIELD. VIC. 3724

19th April, 2021

Dear Kaylene,

“The Island”, Jamieson
Budget Submission 2021-2024

The Jamieson Community Group wish to lodge a budget submission with the Mansfield Shire in regards to our management of “The Island” in Jamieson on behalf of the Council.

Our submission will cover a three (3) year period, which includes mowing as well as managing the blackberry growth on “The Island” as follows:-

Financial Year	Mowing	Blackberries	Total
2021-2022	\$5,500 (10 mows at \$550 per mow)	\$1,000	\$6,500
2022-2023	\$5,600 (10 mows at \$560 per mow)	\$1,000	\$6,600
2023-2024	\$5,700 (10 mows at \$570 per mow)	\$1,000	<u>\$6,700</u>
			<u>\$19,800</u>

For the 2021-2022 financial year, we intend to keep the mowing cost the same as the previous financial year, however, have budgeted for a slight increase for the following two financial years. We do not see a need to increase the Blackberry eradication program allocation, and have kept this figure at \$1,000 per financial year. Ian Bolwell (our Contractor) will continue to maintain “The Island” for us.

We will continue with our blackberry eradication program, and this amount will enable us to continue with the ongoing maintenance program, which will go towards further poisoning of new growth and further removal of these unsightly blackberries.

We will continue to provide the Mansfield Shire with a full reconciliation of the monies received for each financial year when all areas are finalized.

We are extremely appreciative of this funding which has helped the Jamieson Community Group maintain “The Island” to a standard set by the Mansfield Shire for its Reserves, and continue with our blackberry/weed eradication program.

We look forward to hearing from you in regards to managing this most valuable Reserve on behalf of the Shire.

Regards,

Sue Malins,
Secretary.

c.c. Mandy Kynnersley, Finance Manager, Mansfield Shire

I attended the public forum at Bonnie Doon Rec Reserve this week and was encouraged by Mayor Holcome and Crs Tehan and Webb to make a written submission.

Topics Aged Care Outlying Communities

Mansfield population is one of the oldest in the state
30.3 % are over 60 .

The Vic. state average is 22% and Across Australia it is 24%

The median age of people in Mansfield Local Government Area is 48

Mansfields budgeted (Out of ea \$100) Spend on Youth, Family and Aged care \$4.55 Spend on Parks and Gardens \$5.84 Tourism & events \$2.89. Are flowers really more important than people.

Aged Care that is care outside of Paid Residential Care

What is the Shire Planning.

How many residents are on

A NDIS

B My aged Care plans

C what is the Councils Budget for my aged Care services

Who are the external providers of Mt Aged Care services

What services are provided outside of Mansfield township?

Does the Shire have a plan for training and certifying new employees in Aged Care Services?

What importance does the Shire place on Community Centres? Now and in the future.

It's the cornerstone': Boosting aged care workforce is key to fixing the system

The role of Local government is major in the future of aged care far off climes.

The attendees at the recent Aged Care Focus group , here , in this hall,(Bonnie Doon Rec Reserve) were 100% behind Aged Care in the home services being managed by the Shire. Most have little trust and view with suspicion the outsourcing of those activities to "FOR PROFIT" organizations.

They wanted the services to be LOCAL not run from nefarious offices in far flung ports. (Our People Our Care)

The establishment of a sound system that allows people to stay in their own homes is not only practical by morally correct.

It is far cheaper than the disgrace that aged care homes have become.

It is a case for boosted employment. Investment in the caring sector also better delivers on women's economic security with workforces that are around 80 per cent female.

It need not be a cost centre but can assist in growing Shire revenues.

Mansfield Shire is a retirement zone..

Regarding funding and resourcing, multiple challenges need to be addressed,including how to service rural populations in a rate-capped environment and balance the needs of resident landndowners and non

ratepayer residents equitably. Across the Shire there are scattered settlements, multiple growth fronts which create servicing challenges, and many dimensions to the growing and ageing population. This creates significant challenges for funding and resource management, and the project will further consider the need for different funding models that could address such challenges –for example, development contributions plans, or special rates schemes. Will Mansfield 2040 further consider the implications from this emerging narrative, to establish recommendations

[That's where accepting the 1.5% rate increase is a positive.](#)

[Banking that in our Human Society will prove beneficial in the long term.](#)

We are looking for solutions that are Urbanely Practical not Sophisticated

“Fr.Peter Norden’s first experience of navigating the byzantine aged care system was after he had an operation last year.The 71-year-old founder of Jesuit Social Services, prison reform advocate and honorary fellow at Deakin University is no intellectual slouch, but he says the process of organising support in his home was confusing and bureaucratic.”

I have been through this for the past 13 weeks. It took a call for help and fortunate in having 2 friends involved in aged care I got a path to follow. Getting the correct information mirrored Fr Peters experience.

Once in contact with My aged Care and referred to the City of Manningham all ways were swiftly expedited. Manningham has over 8000 using their excellent services.

Australia: more than \$21 billion could be saved over the next four years from a reduction in unnecessary hospitalisations and emergency department presentations if the federal government improves access to doctors and nurses across the aged care system.

Coalitions of aged care peak provider and consumer groups said they wanted to see uncapped home care packages, a registration scheme for care workers and a focus on transparency in the federal government’s response to the royal commission.

Previously, the sector said fixing workforce issues across residential aged care and home care services was key to reforming the system.

“We need to see that waitlist cleared and make sure that in times to come people don’t wait for longer than a month to get critical support to help them to stay at home,” she said.

[Understanding OutLying Areas](#)

Over 50% of the shires population lives outside Mansfield town

Shire submits these are the towns

Ancona Howqua Macs Cove Merton Barjarg Jamieson Tolmie Bonnie Doon

Maindample Goughs Bay Upper Delatite Merrijig Woods Point Not updated since 2017 NO PEPPIN POINT but Im assured that is coming.

A \$50000 budget is totally unrealistic to support the services and lifestyle that the majority of the Shires Residents require,

Budget needs to be revisited and greater emphasis given to the Outlying areas, The proposed 1.5 Million spend on the tourist station could be better spent on facilities at all the towns and regions.

Spent on facilities for tourists and residents. Eg Dump points , toilet facilities at the newer regions. Forget "Carry In Carry out" provide improved garbage collection points, encourage recycling points. Finally review the locations of Emergency services that are not located where needed to protect Lives and Property. (After all the Shire collects their money).

Support the Lake Eildon Masterplan.

Overall I support this planned Budget with the proviso that the required rate increase is carried thru and the improved finances be used for the Betterment of Society thru improved Health and Welfare Services and a much expanded role in increasing services to the majority of the residents living the outlying communities.

HUGH MACKAY Australias foremost Futurist and general Social Commentator. (Hugh assisted our change management group at Fosters (C&UB) in the late 80s. I was part of the Leadership Team)

PUBLIC LECTURE AUSTRALIA REIMAGINED Towards a more compassionate, less anxious society May 2018.

But there is lots of good news about us, as well - things we can express great pride in. Unquestionably our greatest achievement is that, by world standards, we are the champion nation at creating an extraordinarily harmonious society out of extraordinary cultural and ethnic diversity.

The second fact is that we are a more socially-fragmented society than at any previous time in our history

The tragedy of contemporary Australia is that we are not living as though our own health depends on the health of the communities that we belong to, although it obviously does. Another tragic aspect of our present situation is that we are looking in all the wrong places for a solution to our anxiety problems. We yearn for certainty, which often leads to fundamentalism, not just in religion but also in various other aspects of life. It is as though we want some black and white certainty to compensate for our feelings of uncertainty, anxiety and depression.

That is the personal impact of compassion. But there's a social impact as well: compassion is like high octane fuel that runs the machinery of social capital. It is a crucial ingredient in the life of any healthy, functioning community, especially the local neighbourhood. I believe that if you are trying to assess the health of a nation or society, you should look at the health of its local neighbourhoods. That is the place where we test whether we are compassionate people or not. That is the place where we must learn to get on with people that we did not choose to live with but who turn out to be our neighbours. They might be very different from us, they might challenge our capacity for compassion, but we are each other's neighbours, after all.

The town of Frome, in Somerset in the UK, has just completed a three-year study of the 'Compassionate Frome' project. It was an initiative begun by a local GP, who realised that many of the health issues in Frome – especially the mental

health issues – were linked to social isolation in Frome. She, with others, set about encouraging the townsfolk to start looking after each other, making sure they were in touch with their neighbours, making sure that the person living alone at the end of the street is being brought in to the life of the street. So if she or he has not appeared for a few days, we should be looking into it.

They encouraged people to participate in community activities, to smile and say hello when they passed total strangers in the street. Not to stand at a bus stop with people as if they belonged to a different species but to acknowledge each other. It is a complicated story and the outcome is quite complex. However, in essence, many health indicators across Frome improved over that three-year period. The most dramatic of them was that the rate of emergency hospital admissions in Frome fell by 17 per cent in that three-year period, while the rate across Somerset rose by 28 per cent. They did it in Frome, we can do it right here

All of you here have knowledge and Skills . All who are here today desire a better community into the future,

We need you to take on some roles into the future as we Deliver on a Strategy, Build on our structures, people and physical and Create systems that support our Community.

Enjoy today, meet your neighbours and really think where you can help.

Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Thursday, 6 May 2021 6:51 AM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

I encourage streetscaping improvements for Lake frontage towns, and the round about in town looks amazing, but yet again Macs Cove gets left of the list. Some years ago we were promised a walking track to make it safer to walk around the cove as there are NO paths, this hasnt happened. We are so close to Goughs bay, I cant see why you cant include Macs as well. Very little infrastructure is ever done here, a play ground some years ago went in for the few children that live here, but nothing for the older and mature residents.

-

Added by **April**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 3 May 2021 12:13 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

I'm encouraged by the new Councillors attempt to maintain a zero increase to rates. Keep up the good work.

-

Added by **Bill Lines**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Mansfield Livestock Transport <ansteelivestock@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, 3 May 2021 10:54 AM
To: Council
Subject: Rates

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Good Morning,

We just wanted to say that we were very pleased to read in last week's courier that there is a zero rate rise planned for next budget.

We pay over \$17,000.00 dollars in rates annually, this would mean a lot to us to have a zero increase.

Thank you.

Regards,

Dave and Sarah Anstee

Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Thursday, 13 May 2021 8:59 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Councillors, Can I ask if you are reading the questions and responses posted on the Have Your say page? I specifically refer you to the question that was recently posted about the heavy vehicle alternate route and Councils plan to borrow money to fund this project. I found the response from Council officers particularly concerning. The budget identified of \$4.1M to seal 6kms of road inclusive of land acquisition, service relocation and intersection treatments, grossly inadequate. The response also indicates that Council do not even plan on completing the remaining unsealed section of Withers lane. The most recent works on Withers Lane, 550 meters, cost approximately \$1M as a comparison. My question is this. Is the current Council really prepared to place this sort of debt on our Council with this lack of detailed design work and costing? A further question is this debt coupled with a 0% rate increase will leave the Council with a negative cash flow in year 4 or 5 of the projected cash flows, also provided in the question section of the Have Your say Page really a financially responsible action? Can you please advise what the cost of these borrowings including interest are to Council?

-

Added by **Dean**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Peter M Scales (VF) <Peter.Scales@vicforests.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 10:32 AM
To: Council
Cc: David Foster
Subject: Budget submission Delatite CC

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Dear Sir / Madam,

On behalf of Delatite Cricket Club Inc., I wish to make a submission to Council regarding the proposed Draft 2021-22 budget.

Our Club is concerned that the \$500K for the Lords pavilion project that is in the current budget does not carry forward to the Draft 2021-22 budget. Our concerns are as follows:

1. The absence of funding in the new financial year gives us the impression that the project been dropped
2. If Council contributions are not in the budget this may adversely affect the likelihood of being successful in winning the \$3M plus grant(s) which are currently under consideration by external providers (State or Federal government)
3. If the large grant funding application currently under consideration is unsuccessful (this would be the third unsuccessful attempt as we understand it) then there is no provision for 'Plan B' which, as discussed with Councillors and staff, would be to re-scope the project to a more modest building using the funding that is in the current budget for this project

In phone conversations with staff and councillors, we have been told that the project is still a priority for Council, but awaits funding from the third external funding grant application process. They have also stated that if the latest grant application is unsuccessful then there is capacity to re-scope the project as described above, despite the absence of funding specifically for this in the Draft 2021-22 budget. These conversations have allayed our concerns however we wish to provide this written account of our concerns and the conversations with staff and Councillors.

Yours sincerely,

Peter Scales
President Delatite CC Inc.
Mansfield Vic
Ph. 0429171693

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Thursday, 6 May 2021 10:56 AM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Yet again nothing for woods point. No plans for upgrades of public spaces, infrastructure or roads. Love how the round about in Mansfield gets redone with flowers for each season but we can't even get a stoke of paint in 20years. Absolute disgrace. Mansfield should be the only one in the shire as they are the only one that gets a damn thing. We don't even have drainage in residential areas. No upgrades to our public toilets for 20 years. Two items in our "play park". No bbq facilities or roofed areas for tourists. Streetscape is appalling. Not able to recycle or drink the water out of the tap. A community plan that was made in 2015 and has achieved absolutely nothing. We are the equivalent to this shires Walhalla. But treated like a plight on the area. We have two multi million dollar gold mines and you still won't take any notice.

-

Added by **EmilyJ**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 10:49 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

BUDGET SUBMISSION TO COUNCIL Council is obviously well aware of the global Climate change debate. Why is it there is no provision for our ratepayers to put GREEN WASTE FOR RECYCLING into a dedicated facility; for example a green waste bin for residents. Of course there is a dollar cost that could be borne, as usual, by the ratepayers who take up the offer. Being encouraged to "Keep Mansfield Beautiful" can't be left entirely to our Parks & Gardens staff. Many residents do not have any means of green waste disposal other than currently stuffing it in the Red Bin. This is a cost to Council that could and should be avoided. So many residents do not have a trailer, a tow-bar or even a car to utilise the Council Recycling depot in Monkey Gully Rd. The household gardens of Mansfield are often remarked upon by our tourists. It's a credit to the generosity some neighbours who often put themselves out and assist with the disposal of tree branches, rose bush prunings and other matter that doesn't go in the compost bin. Delaying the introduction will do nobody any good. Contracts with our current garbage collection company can be negotiated with a satisfactory outcome for all. Please review the kerb-side collection and save more money. Mansfield Concerned Ratepayers Inc. c/o Col. Duncan

-

Added by **ZAC**

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 10:27 AM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

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Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Council have stated that there will be no reduction of services as a result of this budget. Can Council guarantee this, given that the budget proposes a reduction of \$1.2 MILLION in economic development services?

-

Added by **Jon Gifford**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 26 April 2021 9:39 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

I strongly disagree with the proposed lack of rate increases. The shires future financial position will be compromised to the detriment of services and people. Council cannot cripple the future of the town with such a short sighted action. The council is not going to run better on less money. It struggles to function as it is.

-

Added by **Katherine**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 12:50 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

The Victorian rating system has been central to local government since its inception in the 19th century. It is, fundamentally, a taxation system which allows councils to raise revenue to fund essential public goods and services in accordance with the needs and means of their communities. Importantly, this taxation system includes tools to accommodate issues of equity and to ensure fairness in rating for all ratepayers. [Local Government Rating System Review Final Report March 2020] We are yet to hear Council's explanation or justification for the rating strategy that is proposed and has been put forth for public comment and submission. We note that the purpose of differential rates is to achieve greater equity or efficiency in implementing what is effectively a tax on property in Victoria. Mansfield Shire is now a diverse Council that is less reliant on rural industries than it is broader business and tourism. However in this proposed budget, Mansfield Shire proposes a 0% rise in rates which is achieved by the levying of the lowest differential rate to farm land (58%, an 8% decrease on the prior rate) and the highest differential of rates to commercial type property (143% - an increase of 6%). This is despite the fact that non-farming business in the Shire has probably fared the worst throughout the bushfire season of early 2020 and then the difficulties associated with COVID-19 and the lockdowns and restrictions that followed. The hospitality and tourism industry in Mansfield and many retail traders of the Shire and surrounding areas have undoubtedly suffered the most throughout this period and have had to diversify their business models and adapt to rules that have changed alarmingly quickly. Given the preliminary valuations that have been presented by Council to date it is difficult to understand the thinking behind the proposed application of and collection of rates. Farm land values have experienced the greatest increase (average of 23.2%) yet the proposal is that those properties receive a cut in the rate applied in the dollar. This is despite other evidence indicating that sheep, cattle, and pasture farmers experienced very favourable conditions and revenues during the last year. In contrast, commercial premises have experienced a far more modest increase in average value (3.15%) yet Council proposes an increase in the rate differential to be applied. So after a stint of non-existent tourism due to the fires, followed by prohibited tourism and hospitality due to COVID-19 Council has decided to impose the highest rate burden on the businesses of Mansfield Shire. And cut the budget for economic development within the Shire by \$1.2mil. Once the effect of rental relief measures, boosts from the ATO and the ending of JobKeeper have truly flowed down to small business I certainly hope that our local farmers will 'shop local' whilst enjoying their record low rating differential (which, at the proposed 58%, is lower than the comparable Shires of Murrumbidgee, Alpine, Strathbogie and Wangaratta) and record high property values. Alternatively, Council could simply commit to an equitable distribution of the rate burden, as it is supposed to do.

-

Added by **Katie**

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Wednesday, 12 May 2021 1:14 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

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Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

It appears housing, education, improving community services and health are areas absent or overlooked in proposed budget? The recent Federal Budget 2021 recognises these areas of importance, with over 50% of government expenditure allocated. I am also concerned, how a 0% rate revenue increase, aligns with guaranteed inflation, and an increase in expenses? Including Council borrowing 2.6m.

-

Added by **Kylie**

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 17 May 2021 9:51 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Submission to Council, Council's recognition of the changing Australian internal tourism as a consequence of the Covid-19 pandemic must ensure Mansfield Shire personnel has confidence in the strategic plan to enable the Shire to capitalise on the increased volume of visitors. How can this be achieved? Encourage investment in tourism industries; provide better town parking for car + caravans, and R V's; install EV charging points in salient locations (and tell the world it is being / done!); improve signage on destination walking tracks; encourage a "festival" atmosphere outside our many hospitality / retail venues in all towns (e.g. do not charge permit fees for street-side businesses to market and develop services); improve signage to public conveniences; provide highway signage (electronically) informing tourists of events. The Council can be pleased and proud of the 0% overall rate stability for this budget and the levelling the spread across the entire community. There are many residents and ratepayers in the entire Shire who have had a very financially tough year. Now please consider the many various ways Council can continue to assist all in a reasonable, approachable budget friendly manner. Bring to the fore Council staff in think-tank sessions to see how their combined knowledge of the local needs can be best met. I'm sure the new Councillors will influence the future in a positive manner. Mansfield Concerned Ratepayers Inc.

-

Added by **ZAC**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Wes Mudge <wes@mansfielddba.com.au>
Sent: Tuesday, 18 May 2021 5:15 PM
To: Council
Subject: Budget submission

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A survey of 86 businesses provided the following results.

“Question 1. Is your business for or against the proposed 0% rate? Please select answer below.”

For 40%

Against 60%

“Question 2. What % rate increase do you propose for the Mansfield Shire Council 2021-22 budget? Please answer below.”

Answer. For the 70% the rate rise ranged from 1% to - 1.5%

“Question 3. Is your business for or against the differential rate % as outlined in the budget? Please select answer below.”

For 30%

Against 70%

Regards
Wes Mudge
Executive Officer



Mobile: 0447 905 358

Email: wes@mansfielddba.com.au

Website: www.mansfielddba.com.au

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this email, the Association cannot accept responsibility for any loss or damage arising from the use of this email or attachments.

Mandy Snell

From: Margaret FitzGerald <margfitz@ozemail.com.au>
Sent: Monday, 10 May 2021 2:47 PM
To: Council
Cc: Mandy Kynnersley
Subject: Budget Submission Mansfield Council

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Re: Budget Submission by Merton community for Equipment and Human Resource Support

The outlying community at Merton is very excited and appreciative that we have been awarded an infrastructure grant this year to construct a community children's playground. The families and children in the community eagerly await the construction of these new facilities. Our community demographics have changed substantially since the last Census and our community has grown and now has many families and children who reside and work in the Shire. There has been a net increase of 16 new resident families since 2016--families in Merton Strathbogie Rd area alone, now consist of 29 children aged less than 16 years, 12 are teenagers, 8 are primary school age and 9 are preschoolers. There are several other families building homes in Merton for permanent residency with preschool children. Merton also has tourists who use the Victorian Rail Trail and free campers at the Recreation reserve--who would utilise the new facilities.

Our budget submission consists of two elements:

- As part of our investigations for the project, we became aware that the play equipment at Botanic park would become redundant under the new plans for an amazing re imagining of the play space in Mansfield. We are requesting that the spring mounted rocking see saw, being removed from Botanic Park, be reused at the Merton Community Play Park, soon to be constructed at the Merton Recreation Reserve. This would complement the slide and swings to be purchased for this project. There would be no extra cost to the Shire for this reuse proposal.
- We have a planned maintenance roster, using community members, to commence when the Play Park is complete and in use. This will include regular inspections of equipment and adjustments to the Soft Fall mulch--raking and topping up, where required, to keep a consistent safe depth around all the installed play equipment. We are requesting that Mansfield Council staff also include the Merton Community Play Park in their regular audits so that the facility remains safe and in good repair at all times. We understand that the council's park and grounds staff regularly inspect playgrounds in the Shire and we would ask that Merton is included in this process. We undertake to attend to any notified areas of concern at our own cost--Merton Recreation & Memorial Reserves Inc. will fund any repairs or revisions required to keep the playground safe for the community. The extra cost to the Shire would be in the time taken for the Merton inspection and the extra travel from Bonnie Doon (17km) when added to the regular, planned Shire playground inspections roster. We estimate 1 hour of Council employee time--\$44 /hour (including superannuation) and \$24 in car allowance (at 72 cents /km). Alternatively, if this inspection occurs when regular grounds maintenance occurs anyway, then there would be little extra cost--20 minutes extra in employee time at a cost of \$15.

We hope that you will view our requests favourably and thank you for the opportunity to make this budget submission,

Yours truly,

Margaret FitzGerald
Committee of Management
Merton Recreation & Memorial Reserves Inc.



Virus-free. www.avast.com

Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Sunday, 16 May 2021 8:32 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

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Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

The so called 0% rate increase for the 2021-2022 budget doesn't seem to have been extended to commercial/business premises, yet Rural Residential receives a 3% decrease whilst Farmland has received an 8% decrease. It seems that local retail, hospitality, & accommodation businesses that have suffered massively over the last 12 or so months are handed a 6% increase in rates against a decrease in other property categories which appears to only be for the benefit of a small group of self interested parties. Businesses will need to pass on the extra rate increase to their customers which under the headlined '0% rate increase' this will come as a great surprise to many customers. This budget certainly doesn't reflect 'The Fair Go Rates System' councillors have labeled it.

-

Added by **Missmaya**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 10 May 2021 12:32 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

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Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Budget submission I formally extend my support for the 2021-22 budget, with particular backing for the 0% rate increase.

-

Added by **Peter**

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Mandy Snell

From: Anthony and Joan Tehan <jatha@mansfield.net.au>
Sent: Sunday, 16 May 2021 4:33 PM
To: Council
Subject: council budget 2021-22 Tony Tehan

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To Shire Councillors and CEO,

I am forwarding my submission on the recent draft budget. I congratulate you on proposing a zero increase in rates, however this must not be at the expense of excessive rises in the future. Also I hope it does not send the wrong message to the State Government with regards to future grant applications.

I give my support to the following budget items:

- *Truck by-pass
- *Rate differentials
- *Protection of productive farm land
- *Updating the planning scheme to prevent inappropriate development such as Convenience Fast Food Restaurants at the entrance to Mansfield.
- *Treating the development of the Station Precinct as a matter of urgency.
- *Upgrading of the shire website and making it more user friendly

General Observations;

I think the Council must give their full attention to the upgrading of the Maroondah and Midland Highways. Both highways are becoming a traffic hazard and are quite dangerous in particular areas. The huge increases in traffic generally and B-Doubles in particular has led to many drivers feeling unsafe particularly on the Midland Highway between Mansfield and Benalla . Council needs to strengthen their efforts in lobbying Rural Roads Victoria to have these upgrades done.

Many residents I have spoken to find the Council website unfriendly and difficult to navigate. I believe Council plans to spend money in this area and I hope this means that it will result in a more accessible website.

Council has spent quite a lot of money over the years supporting Targa. I would like to see a more detailed breakdown of the actual monetary support for this event and whether council is getting better value for money.

Parking in the CBD is another area that needs urgent attention. I believe Council may be looking at this problem but it has become more urgent.

Tony Tehan
5092 Midland Highway
Mansfield 3722 0417 126 095

Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Friday, 7 May 2021 9:36 AM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

European wasp problem: Each year there are many complaints about European Wasps, so much so that late summer outdoor activities in some areas have to be curtailed. Campers are harassed to the point they leave the area. Queen wasp traps and baits are simple and cost effective to make and distribute. No queen, no nest, no wasp, no problem. Can Councils budget includes amounts for control of European wasps. A program of this nature would overlap Parks and gardens, tourism, open space and environment and could include volunteer participation. I believe a wasp control program would deliver Immediate and ongoing benefit to the Mansfield Shire.

-

Added by **Upper gumtree**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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12/05/2021

To: The Councillors

Mansfield Shire Council

Dear Councillors,

The budget has clearly seen much hard work and consideration of priorities. I was very impressed by the presentation of priorities in the Budget information session (in Mansfield), and am supportive of those, especially the commitment to maintaining all services the Shire currently provides, to smaller communities, to the Station Precinct, to the Heavy Vehicle By-pass, and to Strategic Planning.

I would like, however, to submit that the Draft Budget's failure to raise rates by the maximum amount set by the state (1.5%) has three consequences:

1. A lack of discretionary and contingency funds for events and circumstances that will normally arise in any given year. They could come in unexpected forms, but it is predictable and likely that the new Local Government Act (2020) will make compliance, reporting and other demands on Council that staff are likely to have difficulty in fulfilling (you may recall I raised this issue with all candidates in a letter prior to the elections). Contingency is needed at this time, probably more than ever.
2. A compounding income deficiency which will amount to millions of dollars in the years ahead (leading to a possible inability of future Councils to balance their books).
3. A devaluing of local government and its services when compared to taxes levied by the state and commonwealth.

While I realise that this submission is unlikely to change a decision that Council has duly considered, I would also like to use it to caution Council against doing this in future years.

I note the opportunity to make a verbal submission to Council on May 25th and would like to do that.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr W. Twycross

Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Friday, 14 May 2021 9:56 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

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Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

Submission to Council, Much concern about the Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route and rightly so. A couple of weeks ago in Melbourne, a very serious accident occurred involving a B-double when five pedestrians were injured, a couple extremely critically. It could easily happen in Mansfield. I implore Council to do all it can to get the bypass roads completed and capable of handling such B-doubles and semis in safety for everyone. The future of funding such projects would be small beer if one of your loved ones were to be unfortunate and be in the wrong place at the wrong time as were the five pedestrians. Council needs to look to the future as our Shire is one of the fastest growing in Victoria. Mansfield Concerned Ratepayers Inc

-

Added by **ZAC**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Mandy Snell

From: Engage Mansfield <notifications@engagementhq.com>
Sent: Monday, 10 May 2021 12:25 PM
To: Council
Subject: New feedback on Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25

External Message: This email originated from outside of the organisation. Do not reply, click links or open attachments unless you recognise the sender and know the content is safe.

Hi Mansfield Shire Council

You have received new feedback on the Guestbook on project **Proposed Budget 2021-22 and Revenue & Rating Plan 2021-25** on your site,

-

The Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route is way overdue. Government grants have an expiry date. If the monies are not spent for the project within the nominated period, you'll lose it and to re-apply would be a worthless task. Council need to attack this project with haste. It will save money and lives. Your Investment in roads of \$2.2m is commendable. There are many roads Council is responsible for as well as the VicRoads roads. What is being done to the road shoulder (widening for safety) in heavily used Shire roads? Is Council prepared to increase the funding in further budgets to improve and maintain existing infrastructure?

-

Added by **ZAC**

[Click here](#) to view the feedback

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Joan Tehan Submission to Mansfield Shire Budget 2021/22

I write to commend the Shire on its proactive budget for the forthcoming year.

In particular, the proposed budget has shown that the shire is listening to the community and taking a responsible stance in taking steps to balance the budget in challenging times. I note the Mayor's comments in the strategy you have proposed.

"Through Council's strategic planning, we acknowledge the responsibility to consider the future, as well as protect the land and lifestyle our community, our businesses and industries enjoy."

Cr Mark Holcombe

I support the moves to progress planning scheme amendments which are long overdue and have cost ratepayers a lot of money in trying to defend decisions taken on planning and development issues while dealing with an outmoded planning scheme. I believe this funding must be adequate to expedite this work as soon as possible.

I support the rate revenue strategy with zero per cent rate rise which is bold but reasonable for the times we are living in.

Other matters

Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route

This is one of the most urgent matters, with an alarming escalation in heavy trucks and B-doubles passing through the town on streets and township layouts that cannot cope. There is marked deterioration on roads from these heavy vehicles and the congestion we are seeing with the mix of trucks, articulated vehicles, bicycles and pedestrians becoming dangerous. As a local, I find I am having to seek alternative routes into town more and more because of this unacceptable congestion. I believe your proposal to fund this item through borrowings is reasonable. If this cannot be achieved, Council will have to introduce weight limits which is not ideal.

Heritage Facility at Station Precinct

I believe Mansfield is in danger of losing its 'heritage memory' without more council funding and active support. With dramatic changes in our demographic over the past decade, there is less knowledge and awareness of one of most valuable assets - our history. For too long it has been left to a band of volunteers to preserve, restore and celebrate this precious asset on a shoestring budget and bucketloads of goodwill. Many of these volunteers are ageing, making it hard to ensure a sustainable succession plan and workers on the ground. Most of Mansfield's historic assets are stored in conditions that are less than ideal: old sheds, garages and private homes. Council has an obligation to ensure that our heritage is protected and celebrated. It is one of the reasons that so many visitors are attracted to visit and live in Mansfield. Supporting the caretakers of our heritage assets to access funding through grants is essential, but it is not enough. It should be given priority over other items that are not home-grown or locally based such as Targa which the shire funds directly. Our community has worked for decades to save and establish the Station Precinct. It must be utilised and activated.

Our heritage is The Mansfield Story and what is decided now will become our heritage. It is Council's responsibility to protect this with \$\$\$.

Mansfield Library

I note there has been funding to upgrade the library. I believe that the library has outgrown its current premises and it would be unwise to be spending council money on an asset that is in this busy and cramped location. The library is a much-valued service that is at the heart of our community. Many municipalities have seen the benefits of combining and relocating their library services with other services such as tourism information, allowing a more efficient and productive use of staff. After all, the library is an information service, dispensing knowledge and information. As I have submitted before, the relocation of the library to the Station Precinct where it could be integrated with other services such as tourism information and related council services would be an appropriate outcome long into the future. It would have good access and adequate space and be funded by the sale of the existing library premises.

Council Services Funding

For many years I have queried the ongoing funding that the Shire has made to events such as Targa that have not been generated locally. I support the shire funding for events that aim to return benefits and funding back to the shire. While Tasmania-based Targa may be a successful event in its own right, it does not justify direct funding from ratepayers in Mansfield. It is based at Mt Buller and promotes Mt Buller for accommodation and hospitality. For many years I have monitored its website which mentions Mansfield in a cursory fashion. The Shire logo is there purely because it provides funding. It does not return any profits to our community. It uses our roads and our township streets are closed, making it very inconvenient for those residents who are not interested. I know of older residents who leave their homes because of the noise and fumes it generates in a closely populated precinct. Environmentally, it is a pollutant and is not sustainable.

In previous years the draft budget has listed events and how much is allocated. In the current draft budget the Tourism and Events allocation is hard to find and is included as a general package under an unlikely heading of Services. This is not transparent.

I once again ask council to review spending on events such as Targa, give priority to those that are locally-generated, sustainable, and return benefits directly to our community and eliminate those that don't. We can't afford them. They don't fit our 'doing it locally' profile.

Council website

I continue to have trouble looking up simple matters on the Mansfield Shire website. This has been the case for some years. It is not intuitive. It is not user-friendly. I hope this can be addressed as soon as possible to make it more accessible for residents and users.

Parking

Parking in Mansfield has become a major issue for locals and visitors. Visitors with articulated vehicles, caravans and trailers are encouraged to come here but are given no dedicated parking spaces. Council needs to address this escalating issue.

Pedestrian congestion and signage

Apart from the traffic congestion, there is a growing problem with pedestrian traffic, especially along the footpaths in the retail precinct. I query the amount of clutter, tables and stands that are multiplying on footpaths outside some retail shops. In some cases, one premises may have several tables, stands and baskets of low-grade products that do nothing to enhance the business precinct or the market atmosphere. Not only does this clutter degrade the shopping experience it is dangerous, obstructing safe passage for children and elderly, who are sometimes in a mobility cart. On a busy holiday weekend it becomes unpleasant and difficult for visitors to navigate out shopping precinct. I understand that since COVID Council has allowed food outlets to use the pavement for safer consumption of food and coffee. But I think it is now time for council to look at its policy to evaluate the proliferation of promotion frames, tables, stands and racks and limit the number to one per premises. It does not create the 'market' atmosphere or promote the unique Mansfield character.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment. I wish you well in managing the budget.

Regards

Joan Tehan
5092 Midland Highway
Mansfield.
VIC 3722

Mansfield Shire Council Draft Budget 2020-21 Submission

I wish to provide the following feedback on the draft Budget 2020-21. My sentiments echo those expressed by Councillors Sladdin and Webb during the Budget meeting with particular concern around the 0% rate increase.

Our shire's population is expanding rapidly. With this expansion is an expectation for improvements in Council services, infrastructure and facilities. A 0% increase in rates will have the following impacts.

Staffing

Council has seen a massive turnover of staff over the last two years. The intellectual property that has been lost is enormous. Burnout, overwork, toxic culture and stress have regularly been stated as reasons for jumping ship. The number of employment adds in last week's Courier is testament to this. Staffing problems cannot be fixed with a reduction of revenue.

As the key driver of the Mansfield Kindergarten Redevelopment Project, I have briefed, worked with and lost the following Council staff:

Alex Green – gone

Robert Graves – gone

Mel Hotton – gone

Caitlin Riley – gone

Kirsten Lingard – gone

Ben McKay – gone

Genevieve De Santis – gone

Dean De Santis - gone

Michael Er – going

Frustrating to say the least!

Delivery of Key Strategies

Council has invested significant amounts of money in numerous strategies over recent years. These strategies have been developed in consultation with the community as things that the community expect Council to deliver on. A 0% rate increase will see these strategies reliant solely on external funding. Strategies at risk of significant under-delivery include (but not limited to):

- Station Precinct Masterplan
- Footpath Strategy
- Environment Strategy
- Waste Management Strategy
- Climate Action Strategy (once adopted)
- Open Space Strategy (once adopted)

Support for Volunteers

For too long, the Shire has relied heavily on the work of countless volunteers to see projects delivered, services, events and activities provided and improvements made across the Shire. Whilst volunteers will continue to roll up their sleeves, a 0% rate increase will mean a greater expectation and workload will fall on volunteers. There is a limit to what we can do. Council has an opportunity to capitalise on the growth in the Shire to make significant improvements. The draft Budget will take things the other way.

Now is the time to fund:

- a year-round aquatic centre
- significant expansion of the footpath network in all of the Shire's communities
- EV charging infrastructure
- increases in the planting of street trees
- control of weeds and invasive species on all public land (particularly Fords Creek)

Whilst I concede 2020 was a difficult year for some, I do not see a decline in the wealth and prosperity in our region. The flow of Melbourne money to the Shire in recent years would suggest the opposite. Modest rate increase have a minimal impact on family budgets. I get so frustrated when I visit other shires and see the facilities and services on offer. It is time for the Mansfield Shire to step up and deliver to (or above) expectations.

Yours sincerely,

Andrew Setchell

HUNT CLUB MERRIJIG
MERRIJIG HIGH COUNTRY HOTEL & MOTOR INN



Mansfield Shire

To Whom it may concern

We would like to address the problem of the lack of toilet facilities in Merrijig.

Both Businesses have allowed usage of toilets inside their premises for many years now with approximate usage on weekends in Winter being:

Hunt Club:50 and upwards per each Saturday and Sunday

Motor Inn: 200 and upwards per each busy Saturday and Sunday

Plus added to these figures all the midweek usage

The costs of cleaning, toilet paper, water and electricity have been borne by both businesses. Cleaning is paramount in Winter as we cater for many nationalities some of whom use the toilets differently resulting in more work for our Staff due to the increased mess.

This year however due to Covid 19 we made the decision to only allow dine in Customers to be able to use the toilet facilities in each establishment. The Toilets need to be Covid Cleaned more frequently and we did not want to put ourselves and our Staff at any added risk during this time.

The nearest Toilets are in Mansfield and Mirimbah Park (if it is open).

This year highlighted the need to have public toilets in Merrijig with numerous people urinating and defecating (yes defecating!) in both carparks and around both businesses, it was also noted by many locals that this was happening in numerous areas along Mt Buller Road including near the School.

Last week Michael and Mandy were driving past the Hunt Club and parked in the middle of the carpark was a 4WD with a child squatting to urinate facing Mt Buller Rdnot even to the edge of the property or even behind the vehicle.

We believe that this could be alleviated by a set of public toilets placed somewhere within the Merrijig Township.

Both establishments also work closely with all the Hall Committee and Trail Riding Businesses in the area and their guests use both facilities as well and are in full agreeance that our Community need public Facilities.

Ralph Nemeth 0408 9310 937

Angela Thompson 0419 597 726

Mandy & Michael Aistrop 0428 848 662 / 0438 582 202



Cr Mark Holcombe
Mayor
33 Highett Street
MANSFIELD, VIC 3722

18 May 2021

Dear Mayor Holcombe,

RE: Submission to Mansfield Shire Council's Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021/25

The Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) welcomes the opportunity to put forward this submission to Mansfield Shire Council's Draft Revenue and Rating Plan 2021/25.

The VFF strongly supports the use of differential rating to help equalise the rating burden between rating sectors. In saying this, it is important to recognise that differential rates are not discounted rates. Differential rates are made available under the *Local Government Act* (s161) and recognise the different rating dynamics that apply to different classes of rateable properties and different groups of ratepayers.

The objective of differential rating under the *Local Government Act* and the Ministerial Guidelines (2013) is 'to ensure the equitable imposition of rates and charges' – whilst endeavoring to 'achieve the best outcomes for the local community having regard to the long term cumulative effects of decisions'.

Differential rates are a useful tool to address equity issues that arise from the setting of Council rates derived from property valuations. Circumstances whereby common types and classes of land use consistently demonstrate significant relative rate disparities, including access to services arising from the use of a uniform rate, may be addressed by use of the differential rate powers.

What's more, the Ministerial Guidelines require that a Council must consider reducing the rate burden through use of a reduced differential rate to farmland and a Council should be able to provide evidence of having regard to modelling or consideration of the impact of its rating decision on those rated differentially and the consequential impact on the municipality.

In setting a differential rate for farmland, the VFF encourages Council to consider how differential rates can be used to maintain more equitable and fair rate rises for all rating sectors, not just for farmers. As differential rates were introduced as a tool for councils to address equity issues arising from the land valuation method of determining rates, the fundamental principle should be that as the value of farmland increases, the differential rate is adjusted to reduce the rate in the dollar so that the rate burden paid by all rating sectors remains stable.

The VFF believes all councils must be required to use differential rates to establish a fair and equitable distribution of the rate burden for each category of land. Once established the rate burden for each category should be maintained for at least four years. Rather than setting differential rates at a fixed percentage the general rate, the rating strategy should set a lower and upper limit within which a

differential rate may be set, taking into account the impact of property value movements that have occurred which contribute to changes in the rate burden paid by each rating sector.

The VFF acknowledges the way Mansfield Shire Council has attempted to achieve this goal in its Draft Budget 2021/22, particularly with regard to its response to the 24.5% increase to farmland values. To further support this objective into the future, the VFF recommends that Mansfield Shire Council give consideration to incorporating the following statements into Section 1.4 of its Revenue and Rating Plan 2021-25:

Council acknowledges the impact that property valuation asymmetries have on the relative rating burden paid by each rating sector from year to year. The rating burden refers to the amount of rates paid by each rating sector as a percentage of the total general rate collected by Council.

Council's objective is to ensure the rating burden paid by each sector remains stable from year to year and to, where possible, avoid any disproportionate increase to an individual sector's rating burden.

Council will take into account the impact of property valuation asymmetries across rating sectors when determining the level of rates and charges to be collected, and in determining its differential rate levels.

Council acknowledges the need to retain flexibility in its differential rating categories to assist with maintaining the rating burden across rating sectors. Therefore, the following differential rates shall apply expressed as a percentage of the general rate:

Residential – 100%

Rural Residential – to be set at between 80% and 90%

Vacant – to be set at between 125% and 135%

Commercial – to be set at between 135% to 145%

Farmland – to be set at between 50% and 60%

The VFF is committed to ensuring a fairer and more equitable rating strategy for all rural and regional ratepayers and we look forward to discussion Council's rating plans into the future. Should you wish to discuss these issues further, please contact VFF Stakeholder Policy and Advocacy Advisor Charles Everist on 0400 199 522 or email – ceverist@vff.org.au .

Yours sincerely,



Emma Germano
President

VFF Mansfield Branch

Mansfield Shire 2021/22 Budget Submission

The Mansfield Branch of the Victorian Farmers Federation (VFF) wish to express their support on behalf of their members for the proposed Mansfield Shire 2021/22 Budget.

We believe that the budget proposal to have a zero % increase of rates strikes the right balance by recognizing the tough times that Mansfield Shire ratepayers have experienced in recent years with drought, bushfires and more recently the effects of dealing with Covid19. We note that despite not increasing rates, the income from rates through shire growth is expected to increase by \$282k well in excess of a 1.5% increase. We applaud the fact that the budget proposes to maintain current service levels, increase road and infrastructure maintenance and increase spending on capital works. We believe that this is a financially responsible budget and congratulate council for at long last taking into consideration the economic situation of their major stakeholder, that being ratepayers.

We note the commentary by some in the shire who maintain that a rate increase of 1.5% is such a small amount to the average ratepayer that it is effectively of no consequence to the average household budget. The argument then claims that by not increasing by the capped amount of 1.5%, the shire budget will be worse off \$180k/year or by a compound amount of \$2m over 10 years. Whilst correct we would point out that compounding cuts both ways and an increase of rates of \$180k would mean a corresponding reduction of \$180k of discretionary spend by the community in the community. That is a cut in the discretionary spend in the Mansfield Community of \$2m over 10 years. A significant amount. The money must come from somewhere and in this case its directly out of the pockets of ratepayers.

We support the proposed investment in the Heavy Vehicle Alternative Route. This infrastructure needs to be completed and it is heartening to see council make a positive decision on this.

Furthermore, the VFF would encourage Council to consider all possible avenues to increase their income and not simple rely on increasing rates and the burden on ratepayers. Consideration needs to be given to how the Shire can generate income from the increasing tourism traffic.

Mark Ritchie

VFF Mansfield Branch President

BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED

ABN 76 114 480 625

"Secure Independent Living Homes in Victoria's North-East"

TEL: +61 3 5775 1925 / 0419 092 010
EMAIL: beolitevillage@gmail.com
WEBSITE: www.beolitevillage.org

PO Box 245
(100 Macpherson Smith Drive)
Mansfield Victoria 3724

18 May 2021

Ms Kaylene Conrick
Chief Executive Officer
Mansfield Shire Council
Private Bag 1000
MANSFIELD VIC 3724

Via Post and Email: kaylene.conrick@mansfield.vic.gov.au

Dear Ms Conrick

Submission re Charitable Purposes Exemption

Following recently obtained advice, Beolite Village, seeks a Declaration that the land which it owns and/or occupies is not rateable land pursuant to Section 154 of the *Local Government Act 1989* on the grounds that the land is used exclusively for charitable purposes.

Beolite Village Limited is the registered proprietor of various contiguous Titles covering an area of about 45 acres on the edge of the Mansfield township, which has been operating now for over 15 years.

It is endorsed as a deductible gift recipient by the Australian Tax Office as a public benevolent institution a copy of which is **attached**.

Its purpose is set out in Rule 2 of the Beolite Village Limited Constitution as follows:

"The company is established to provide accommodation for the relief of aged persons suffering poverty, physical or mental ill health, other infirmities, and helplessness, including resulting from isolation in remote areas for other causes, by constructing, and providing and managing accommodation units".

Beolite Village bore the cost of construction of all infrastructure on its land including all housing, internal roads, footpaths, water supply, drainage, sewerage, power and street lighting. It also constructed extensive municipal gardens including recreational areas and vegetable gardens. Importantly, without cost to the Shire, it has borne all the ongoing maintenance costs of all infrastructure.

Beolite is the Shire's largest, not for profit charity not supported by either State or Federal Governments. It is operated by an entirely volunteer Board of Directors. To date it has spent and contributed over \$25 million to the economy of the Shire.

Subject to finance and demand, it has plans to expand the facility with a further estimated \$50 million development program.

The establishment and development of the Beolite Retirement Village has enabled residents to have accessible housing options which enables them to enjoy their independent living in a well designed and supported environment.

There is no other not for profit charitable, independent living, retirement village, providing the same or similar charitable purpose in the Shire. Beolite Village has and continues to provide a very significant opportunity for aged persons which would not otherwise be available and which does not carry with it any direct cost burden to the rate payers of Mansfield.

The purpose of this submission is to provide Council with an opportunity to reassess the rateability of the land. If there is any further or other information you require, please let us know.

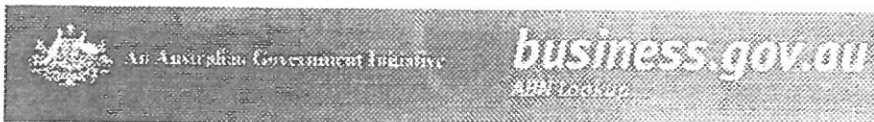
In view of the material contained in this submission, we propose to suspend payment of any further rate instalments pending the resolution of this matter.

We look forward to your reply.

Yours faithfully,



Beolite Village Limited
Lily Kennedy
Administration Manager



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Current Details for 76 114 480 625

This extract is based on information supplied by businesses to the Registrar of the Australian Business Register. Neither the Registrar nor the Federal Government guarantee that this information is accurate, up to date or complete. You should consider verifying this information from other sources.

Last modified: **18 Jul 2006**

ABN: **76 114 480 625** [view history](#)

ABN status: **Active from 01 Jul 2005**

Entity name: **BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED**

Entity type: Australian Public Company

Main business location

State: **VIC**

Postcode: **3722**

Trading name(s)

THE MANSFIELD VILLAGE LTD

Other registrations

GST status: **Not currently registered for GST**

Tax Concession status: **BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED**, a Public Benevolent Institution, is endorsed to access the following tax concessions:

Tax Concession	From
<u>FBT Exemption</u>	17 Jul 2006
<u>GST Concession</u>	01 Jul 2005
<u>Income Tax Exemption</u>	01 Jul 2005

Deductible Gift Recipient: **BEOLITE VILLAGE LIMITED** is endorsed as a Deductible Gift Recipient from **01 Jul 2005**.

Important: Please read Deductible Gift Recipient (DGR) information before making a gift.

ACN or ARBN: **114480625**

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Retrieved on: **18 Jul 2006**

Last updated on: **18 Jul 2006**

