

**To Cardinia Shire Council
Attention Chief Executive Officer**

Please accept the following comment with reference to the **Council Plan and Annual Budget 2017/18**.

The Council Plan has been very well prepared and encompasses a huge amount of responsibilities for which Council is now responsible having regard to the growth of population and development that continues to increase according to government policy. The attention to social, health and community wellbeing strategies is impressive as is also the plan for managing the environment, which will all rely on the outcome of the economic strategy on which the Council budget is based.

Considering the amount of people now resident in the municipality, the interest in the Annual Budget preparation is not very strong. Attention should be given to the need for increased input and community interest and by what means that can be achieved. It will be important to note the number of people who attended any of three community consultation opportunities offered in the Council Budget public notices.

The capping of rates at 2% this rating year will be a challenge for the Council Budget and careful choices will be necessary as the spending goes forward.

In the growth corridor, there will be government funding provided which is obviously tied to the various needs of the increasing urban development and intended to supplement council expenditure on new infrastructure of all kind including, sportsgrounds, child and maternal care, and the huge variety of required community needs listed in the Budget. The level of government funding needs to increase on the basis that Council has to fund its commitments to the communities beyond the urban growth boundary.

The following items are recommended as needing Council attention and should be noted and included in Budget allocation.

In established older Pakenham residential streets located south of the town, there are neglected drainage pits which have not been regularly serviced and cleaned out and which urgently require maintenance. Several identified drainage points north of the highway require cleaning and maintenance.

A damaged metal bollard corner of John and Main Street requires replacement.

Items outside the urban growth boundary in the rural location also require Council funding. Several sections of Seven Mile Road between Nar Nar Goon and Ballarto Road could be regarded in dangerous condition for vehicle traffic and need urgent attention.

Latta Road in Nar Nar Goon has drainage problems that are being neglected.

Nar Nar Goon Community Centre car park is in need of sealing due to its frequent use by local residents.

Civic Centre Reception. Due to greater demand by an obviously increasing number of callers, the Council telephone reception service requires assessment with regard to the ability of callers to contact Council in a reasonable timeframe. Employment of a casual or part time extra person during identifiable heavy load period of calls would benefit both staff and callers.

**Gloria O'Connor
Cardinia Ratepayers & Residents Association.**

3rd May 2017