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SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Overview

Strathbogrie Shire covers an immense area of different terrain, has four main towns and other smaller villages which all require significant infrastructure. The infrastructure and assets the Council manages include town halls and civic buildings, libraries, community swimming pools, tennis courts, sports ovals, sealed roads, dirt roads, open drain, channelised drains, footpaths and waste disposal.

Like the majority of rural Councils in Victoria, Strathbogrie Shire’s infrastructure is aging and will need replacing in the near future, in particular many of the sealed roads, bridges, drainage infrastructure and public amenities. Council’s Strategic Resource Plan seeks to close the the renewal gap by providing sufficient funds to maintain appropriate intervention levels.

The design, management and delivery of infrastructure are key issues for Council. The Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) prepared by the Local Government Infrastructure Design Association has been adopted by Council and includes guidelines for the design and construction of infrastructure within the municipality, including (among other things) roads, drainage, stormwater, car parking, landscaping, access, earthworks, public lighting and intersection infrastructure. The IDM complements the objectives and standards of Clause 56 for residential subdivision applications.

Key Issues

- Aging infrastructure
- Poor drainage in most settlements
- Lack of walking and bicycle infrastructure
- Limited public transport options
- The design, management and delivery of infrastructure
- Capacity to deliver new projects.

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Urban Services

Objective

To deliver sustainable services.

Strategies

- Ensure new developments are connected to reticulated services or have provision for adequate on-site treatment and disposal with no adverse impacts on nearby watercourses.
- Protect transfer stations from encroachment by inappropriate use and development.
- Support and lobby for the extension of natural gas to Avenel, Nagambie and Violet Town.
- Ensure that works are designed so that they will fulfil the purpose for which they are intended.
- Ensure that the design and construction of roads meets the requirements of Vic Roads, Strathbogrie Planning Scheme, Infrastructure Design Manual and Australian Standards.
- Identify provision for buses, bicycles and pedestrians at the design stage.
- Ensure design makes provision for emergency services, waste and recycling collection vehicles.
- Ensure that staged construction methods are planned to meet the immediate, medium term and ultimate pavement and drainage design requirements.
- Ensure that the design and management of stormwater runoff from all development is generally in accordance with the local adopted Stormwater Management Plan and incorporates consistent best practice water sensitive urban design measures and principles.

- Incorporate stormwater treatment and litter traps into retardation basin design where practical.
- Ensure that development contributions plans are prepared for all growth areas or that a 'pre-development' agreement for the provision of infrastructure and community service is in place.
- Support the installation and upgrade of significant telecommunications infrastructure, for example the National Broadband Network.

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Traffic Management

Objective

To ensure the safety and efficient functioning of the roads for a variety of users while providing sustainable transport options.

Strategies

- Ensure parking meets the demand and supply requirements in each township.
- Support fast train link to Melbourne from Seymour, to services Avenel residents/commuters.
- Encourage bicycle facilities and infrastructure within townships and to connect between townships.
- Ensure new developments incorporate bicycle and pedestrian infrastructure, to provide safe and efficient access.
- Ensure development contributions address transport infrastructure needs.
- Ensure parking associated with non-business uses in or adjacent to central business areas does not impact on-street parking related to business.
- Encourage new developments to use solar street lights, install grey water treatment plants and require new dwellings and industries to use water tanks.
- Encourage the use of the rail network.

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Drainage

Objective

To ensure that appropriate drainage infrastructure is installed and maintained.

Strategies

- Ensure development contributions address drainage infrastructure needs.
- Develop strategies to ensure that future drainage infrastructure can accommodate for high rainfall events.

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Infrastructure Planning, Design and Construction

Objective

To provide clear and consistent guidelines for the planning, design and construction of infrastructure.

Strategies

- Encourage a consistent approach to the design and construction of infrastructure across the municipality.
- Encourage new subdivision and development that has regard to the objectives and requirements of the IDM or an approved Precinct Structure Plan.

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Implementation

The strategies will be implemented through the planning scheme by:

Policy Guidelines

- Applications for significant developments must consider potential impacts of the development on the transport network.
- Applications should be accompanied by plan/schedule of servicing details.
- Applicants should provide a Drainage Strategy Plan as part of an application for development, where appropriate.
- Consideration must be given to the standard and capacity of existing infrastructure as part of an application for development.
- Development must be undertaken generally in accordance with Council's Infrastructure Design Manual.
- Incorporate best practice measures such as those contained in the Urban Stormwater Best Practice Management Guideline into the design of new developments.
- Minimise off site discharge of stormwater through the use of porous pavements, on-site collection, water conservation and re-use.

Scheme Implementation

- Apply an appropriate overlay to protect the operation and expansion of transfer stations.

Others actions of Council

- Prepare an Integrated Transport Strategy to investigate services between settlements and larger nearby centres.
- Prepare a cycling and walking strategy.
- Develop a Priority Program to gradually roll out wide and continuous footpaths on both sides of the road throughout the entire town for Violet Town, Euroa and Nagambie, where appropriate.
- Review town drainage/stormwater studies.
- Prepare a feasibility study to address infrastructure issues in the Shire.

Future strategic work

- Prepare Development Contributions Plans for growth corridors.