



South Gippsland
Shire Council

Come for the beauty, Stay for the lifestyle

COUNCIL AGENDA PAPERS

18 September 2013

**SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
COUNCIL CHAMBERS, LEONGATHA
COMMENCING AT 11.45AM**

MISSION

To effectively plan and provide for the social, built, economic and natural environments that ensure the future wellbeing of South Gippsland Communities.

SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL

**NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT SPECIAL MEETING OF
COUNCIL OF THE SOUTH GIPPSLAND SHIRE COUNCIL WILL BE
HELD ON 18 SEPTEMBER 2013 IN THE COUNCIL CHAMBERS,
LEONGATHA COMMENCING AT 11.45AM**

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Tim Tamlin
Chief Executive Officer

SECTION A - PRELIMINARY MATTERS

A.1 WELCOME

Please ensure Mobile phones remain 'off' during the Council Meeting.

A.2 OPENING PRAYER

We pray to God to guide us so that the thoughts we have and the decisions made this day, are in the best interests of the people of the South Gippsland Shire.

Amen

A.3 ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL CUSTODIANS

The South Gippsland Shire Council respectfully acknowledges the Traditional Custodians of this Land, Elders past and present, their Spirits and Ancestors.

A.4 APOLOGIES

A.5 REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

A.6 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR COUNCILLORS

Any interest that a Councillor or staff member has deemed to be significant and has disclosed as either a direct or an indirect interest is now considered to be a conflict of interest. Conflict of interest legislation is in sections 77A, 77B, 78, 78A-D and 79 of the Local Government Act 1989. This legislation can be obtained by contacting the Council's Organisational Development Department (Governance) or by accessing the Victorian Legislation and Parliamentary Documents website at www.legislation.vic.gov.au. An interest may be by close association, financial, conflicting duties or receipt of gifts.

If a Councillor or staff member discloses any interest in an item discussed at any Council Meeting (whether they attend or not) they must:

- Complete a disclosure of interest form prior to the Meeting (forms are available from the Organisational Development Department – Governance).
- Advise the Chair of the interest immediately before the particular item is considered (if attending the Meeting).
- Leave the Council Chamber or Meeting room while the item is being discussed and during any vote taken (if attending the Meeting).

The Councillor or staff member will be advised to return to the Council Chamber or Meeting room immediately after the item has been considered and the vote is complete.

Councillors should check the Minutes of the Council Meeting to ensure their disclosure is recorded accurately.

Councillors are not required to disclose conflict of interest in relation to matters only considered at Meetings they do not attend.

Detailed information is available in Conflict of Interest in Local Government – A Provisional Guide with amendments to 1 October 2010.

Type of Interest		Example of Circumstance
Direct Interest		Reasonably likely that your benefits, obligations, opportunities or circumstances will be directly altered. Reasonably likely to receive a direct benefit or loss measurable in money. Reasonably likely that your residential amenity will be directly affected.
Indirect Interest	Close Association	A member of your family has a direct interest or an indirect interest. A relative has a direct interest. A member of your household has a direct interest.
	Indirect financial Interest	Likely to receive a benefit or loss, measurable in money, resulting from a change to another person's interest. Holding shares in a company or body that has a direct interest (subject to threshold) When a person with a direct interest owes money to you.
	Conflict of Duty	Manager or member of the governing body of an organisation with a direct interest. Trustee for a person with a direct interest. Past dealings in relation to the matter as duty to another person or body.
	Applicable Gift	Gifts valued at \$500 in previous 5 years. Election donations valued at or above \$500 in previous 5 years. Gifts other than election campaign donations that were received more than 12 months before a person became a Councillor are exempt.
	Party to the Matter	Initiated or became party to civil proceedings in relation to the matter.

Privacy

Council is required to keep minutes of each Council meeting. The minutes contain details of proceedings which may include personal information about community members disclosed as part of presentations, submissions and questions. The minutes of Council meetings are a public record and can be inspected by members of the public.

Council undertakes audio recordings of Council Meetings as a contribution to good governance and accuracy of minutes. An audio recording of this meeting is being made for the purpose of verifying the accuracy of minutes of the meeting. In some circumstances the recording may be disclosed, such as where Council is compelled to do so by court order, warrant, and subpoena or by any other law such as the Freedom of Information Act 1982. It should be noted that other people present at the meeting may be recording the meeting and Council has limited power to regulate this. Council has developed a policy to regulate recordings, "Sound Recording of Council Meetings". A copy of this policy is located on Council's website www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au. Further information or a copy of the policy or can be obtained by contacting Council's Organisational Development Department (Governance).

A.7 DECLARATION OF CONFLICT OF INTEREST FOR STAFF

Sections 80B and 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 require members of Council staff who have delegated functions and /or provide advice to Council or a Special Committee to disclose conflicts of interest. If Council staff have written, provided information/advice or approved a Council Report and have a conflict of interest it is the responsibility of that staff member to disclose the interest. Guidance to identifying and disclosing a conflict of interest is contained in Department of Planning and Community Development in '*Conflict of Interest A Guide for Council staff*', October 2011.

SECTION B - COUNCIL REPORTS

B.1 DRAFT COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORT 2012/13

Corporate Services Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Draft Annual Report 2012-2013 (Annual Report), refer to **Appendix 1**, is presented to Council for endorsement, excluding the Financial Statements, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement that are subject to audit by the Auditor General and the subject of a separate report to this Meeting of Council. Once these statements have been certified they will be included into the Annual Report.

In accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989 a copy of the Annual Report 2012-2013 will then be forwarded to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September 2013. The final Annual Report will be included in the Council Meeting Agenda for 23 October 2013, allowing two weeks public availability before being presented to Council for adoption in full.

The Annual Report will be made available on Council's website and will be provided at Council distribution points.

Document/s pertaining to this Council Report

- **Appendix 1** - Draft Annual Report 2012-2013

A copy of **Appendix 1** is available on Council's website:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au or by contacting 5662 9200.

LEGISLATIVE / ACTION PLANS / STRATEGIES / POLICIES

The Local Government Act 1989, Section 131 Annual Report

INTERNAL POLICIES / STRATEGIES / DOCUMENTS

South Gippsland Shire Council Annual Budget 2012-2013

South Gippsland Shire Council Annual Plan 2012-2013

COUNCIL PLAN

- Outcome: 4.0 A Leading Organisation
- Objective: 4.2 Pursue best practice in organisational development and operations of the organisation
- Strategy No: 4.2.2 We will monitor corporate governance processes, including risk management and skills development with the aim of ongoing improvement.

CONSULTATION

The Draft Annual Report provides a succinct summary of Council's activities and achievements throughout the 2012-2013 financial year.

REPORT

Background

- The Local Government Act 1989, section 131 (6), requires Council to prepare an Annual Report that provides a succinct end of year summary of Council's performance. The Annual Report must contain a series of segments required by the Local Government Act 1989 including independently audited Financial Statements, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement by the Auditor General's office.
- The Local Government Act 1989, requires Council's Annual Report to be presented to the Minister for Local Government by close of business on 30 September annually.
- Council's end of year financial position based, on the adopted 2012-2013 Budget and performance result, was subject to an independent audit by the Victorian Auditor General's Office. This review took place in late August and the results are being considered as a separate report to Council at this Meeting.

Discussion

Annual Report Summary

The Draft Annual Report 2012-2013 contained in **Appendix 1**, has been prepared to meet Council's statutory requirements and provide a detailed account of a wide range of factors that summarise Council's performance for the financial year. The draft Annual Report currently excludes the Financial Statements, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement. These will be added after certification by the Auditor General.

The draft Annual Report includes all the remaining sections including:

- A message from the Mayor and a snapshot of the year in review by the Chief Executive Officer;
- The organisational structure, senior personnel, staffing numbers and related human resource matters;
- An outline of the Wards and representative Councillors;
- A succinct overview of Council Directorate responsibilities and highlights achieved;
- Good governance requirements including a list of registers maintained, Freedom of Information requests processed, Protected Disclosure notifications, Human Rights, Best Value Report and National Competition Policy compliance;
- A financial overview;
- Local Government indicators; and
- Community grants and donations provided by Council.

This report of Council's performance is a valuable marketing tool when liaising with Government agencies, community groups and investors, and affirms Council's commitment to accountable and transparent good governance practices.

The Year in Review

The Draft Annual Report provides some highlights of the achievements of Council in the 2012/13 period, which have also been documented in Council's Quarterly Performance Reports during the year.

Below are just some of the various examples of the achievements, and level of service delivered, that showcase the breadth of involvement Council has within the community:

- Adopted Active Ageing Plan 2012/2016;
- Adopted the 2013-17 Municipal Public Health and Wellbeing Plan, the first Gippsland Council to complete the Plan;
- Supported Department of Environment and Primary Industries during the Hallston fire. Set up registration centre at Leongatha Football Club rooms, assisted with road closure, patrolling for lost stock, facilitated public meetings and conduit for personal support;

- Reduced waste to landfill from transfer stations by 12% and commenced Cell 3 operations at Koonwarra landfill with in-house management. Commenced the optional kerbside waste collection in Venus Bay and Walkerville and completed the first optional hard waste collection service with 85 bookings;
- Developed concept designs for the Korumburra Integrated Children's Centre Planning Amendments commenced and State and Federal Government funding is being sought. The Korumburra Kindergarten extension was also completed providing an additional learning space to enable 15 hours per week of preschool education;
- Completed Urban Design Frameworks for eight settlements and a Housing and Settlement Strategy which includes Structure Plan for 17 of our towns;
- Completed landslip repairs at Foster-Mirboo Road and Foster-Boolarra Road, Foster North and progressing landslip repairs at Loch-Poowong Road, Ross and Witherdons Road, and Turtons Creek Road, Turtons Creek;
- Completed 92% of the Capital Works Program (45 projects);
- Completed Corner Inlet Lookout;
- Conducted Prom Flood Recovery marketing campaign with Prom Coast Regional Tourism (PCRT) and Destination Gippsland Limited;
- Processed 765 building permit lodgements totalling \$118 million (increase in value of 21%) and 611 building/property information applications;
- Awarded \$346,000 through the Community Grants program to 74 organisations; and
- Applied for 23 external grants with 21 receiving funding to a combined value of approximately \$3.5 million.

For access to further highlights and performance results, the community is also encouraged to review the four Council Quarterly Performance Reports for 2012/13.

IMPLEMENTATION

The draft Annual Report is presented to Council for endorsement at this stage, to allow the financial and performance statements to be added, once certified, so that a full report can be presented to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September 2013.

A further report must then be presented to Council for consideration of the full, final Annual Report, incorporating a two week public display period. It is intended that a Council Report, incorporating the Annual Report, will be placed on public display for two weeks prior to final adoption by Council at the October Council Meeting in accordance with legislative requirements. It is proposed that the Annual Report 2012-2013 then be published and made available on Council's website and various Council distribution points which will be advertised via Council Noticeboard in the local newspapers.

FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

Costs associated with the publication of the Annual Report are covered within the approved budget allocation. Developing the Annual Report in-house and with limited printing will provide cost savings for Council compared to previous years in the order of \$2,000.

CONCLUSION

The Draft Annual Report provides a succinct summary of Council's activities and achievements throughout the 2012-2013 financial year.

The Draft Annual Report 2012-2013, refer to Appendix 1, is presented to Council for endorsement, excluding the Financial Statement, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement that require certification by the Auditor General before inclusion. Once the certified statements are returned they will be incorporated in the Annual Report.

A copy of the Annual Report 2012-2013 including the Financial Statement, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement will then be sent to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September 2013, in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1989. The full, final Annual Report will then be prepared and published in the Council Agenda for 23 October where it can be viewed by the public for two weeks prior to the meeting.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Endorse the draft Annual Report 2012- 2013 contained in Appendix 1;**
- 2. Upon receipt of the certified Financial Statement, Standard Statements and the Performance Statement, these documents are to be included into the draft Annual Report, forming the Annual Report 2012-2013;**
- 3. Send a copy of the 2012/13 Annual Report to the Minister for Local Government by 30 September 2013; and**
- 4. Consider the final Annual Report at 23 October 2013 Council Meeting for adoption, allowing for the Annual Report to be available for public viewing for a two week period prior to adoption.**

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

B.2 UNAUDITED FINANCIAL STATEMENTS, STANDARD STATEMENTS, AND PERFORMANCE STATEMENT 2012-2013

Corporate Services Directorate

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The unaudited Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement for 2012-2013 are presented to Council:

1. to seek an 'in-principle' approval of the statements; and
2. to seek a resolution of Council authorising two Councillors to certify the statements following audit completion.

The complete draft Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement for 2012/13 have been distributed separately to the Agenda as **Appendix 1**.

Document pertaining to this Council Report

- **Appendix 1** – Annual Accounts 2013

A copy of **Appendix 1** is available on Council's website:
www.southgippsland.vic.gov.au or by contacting 5662 9200.

LEGISLATIVE / ACTION PLANS / STRATEGIES / POLICIES

The Local Government Act 1989, Section 131 Annual Report

INTERNAL POLICIES / STRATEGIES / DOCUMENTS

South Gippsland Shire Council Annual Budget 2012/13

South Gippsland Shire Council Plan 2010-2014

Financial Strategy

COUNCIL PLAN

Outcome 4.0 A Leading Organisation

Objective 4.1 Improve the financial sustainability of Council, including diversifying revenue streams.

Strategy 4.1.1 We will explore innovative ways of increasing revenue and reducing expenditure.

REPORT

Background

Section 131 (6) of the Local Government Act states that the Annual Report of a Council must be submitted to the Minister by the end of September. Section 131 (1) also states that the audited Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement, including the Auditor's report on the Performance Statement, are to form part of the Annual Report. This requires the completion and audit of the statements early in September to allow sufficient time for inclusion into the Annual Report.

Section 131 (7) and 132 (6) states that Council must approve in principle the draft Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement prior to formally submitting the accounts for audit. Because of the timing restrictions noted above and a requirement that two audit reviews are required, the first by the Auditor General's contractor, Ms Rochelle Wrigglesworth CA of Armitage Downie and the second by the Auditor General, it is normal for the bulk of the audit work to have effectively been completed prior to Council approving the draft statements.

Any issues raised by the Auditor should have been appropriately dealt with in the draft statements presented to Council, providing a greater degree of comfort that the statements are true and fair. A meeting of the Audit Committee was held on 12 September 2013. Council's representatives on this Committee have been able to raise any further issues arising out of the Audit Committee meeting, directly with Council.

As Council's approval is only in-principle, based on the draft Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statements, opportunities for changes to the statements may arise, particularly after review by the Auditor General's office. To cover such changes, section 131 (8) and 132 (7) requires Council to appoint two Councillors to certify the statements following any amendments that may arise after finalisation of the audit.

Financial Statements

Council, when setting the budget for the 2012/13 financial year, continued to apply modern financial management techniques to the budgeting process. Rate setting is an important function of councils, but this is now considered in the context of budgeted cash flows, financial performance and the financial position of Council.

There is a very strong correlation between the Long Term Financial Plan, the Annual Budget and the actual results that are disclosed in the Financial Statements. Annual budgets are set within a strategic 15 year forward financial planning framework. The actual financial performance achieved is also monitored within the context of the 15 year financial framework.

The detailed draft Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement for 2012/13 are provided in **Appendix 1**.

2012/13 The Highlights

Comprehensive Income Statement (Profit & Loss)		
	2012/13 \$000's	2011/12 \$000's
Total Revenue	59,068	56,175
Total Expenses	(57,310)	(54,032)
Surplus (Deficit)	1,758	2,143
Net asset revaluation increment	0	34,355
Comprehensive result	1,758	36,498

Balance Sheet		
	2012/13 \$000	2011/12 \$000
Current Assets	16,380	21,826
Current Liabilities	9,639	10,564
Working Capital Ratio	1.70:1	2.07:1
Non-current Assets	468,474	466,173
Non-current Liabilities	953	4,931
Net Assets/Total Equity	474,262	472,504

Statement of Changes in Equity		
	2012/13 \$000's	2011/12 \$000's
Balance at beginning of financial year	472,504	436,006
Surplus / (deficit) for the year	1,758	2,143
Net Asset revaluation increment (decrement)		34,355
Balance at end of financial year	474,262	472,504

Cash Flow Statement		
	2012/13 \$000	2011/12 \$000
Net cash inflows from operating activities	5,102	15,000
Net cash outflows from investing activities	(8,781)	(14,961)
Net cash outflows from financing activities	(181)	(980)
Net increase (decrease) in cash held	(3,860)	(941)
Cash at the beginning of the year	13,852	14,793
Cash at the end of the year	9,992	13,852

Comprehensive Income Statement

The Comprehensive Income Statement result is \$1.76 million surplus (previous year \$36.5 million). The comprehensive result includes asset revaluation increments and decrements. There was no revaluation of assets in 2012/13. The previous year's revaluation increment was \$34.4 million and predominantly related to roads, streets, kerb & channel and drainage assets.

The Surplus / Deficit outcome for 2012/13 was \$1.76 million net surplus (previous year \$2.14 million surplus).

Balance Sheet

The Balance Sheet shows an overall marginally strengthened position, as a result of the surplus result achieved for the financial year.

The end of financial year net current asset position however is weaker than the previous financial year. This is due to paying the \$4.61 million defined benefit superannuation call in 2012/13 rather than on the due date for

payment (1 July 2013). The reduced cash position at financial year end has an unfavourable impact on the working capital ratio. The working capital ratio of 1.70 to 1 is marginally weaker to the previous year's ratio of 2.07 to 1.

Loans and borrowings of \$134,000 is less than the previous year (\$451,000) after allowing for the repayment of debt of \$317,000. Borrowing cost expenses for 2012/13 was \$23,000 (previous year \$77,000).

The non-current liabilities have substantially decreased from \$4.93 million to \$953,000. This is due to payment of Council's \$4.61 million defined benefits unfunded superannuation contribution in advance.

Statement of Changes in Equity

The total changes in equity for the 2012/13 year is \$1.76 million increase, reflecting the surplus from the Comprehensive Income Statement for the financial year (previous year \$36.50 million increase which included a \$2.14 million surplus as well as a \$34.36 asset revaluation increment adjustment).

It is important not to take the financial implications of revaluation increments out of context. Revaluations are conducted periodically to ensure that the current replacement costs of assets are reflected in the Balance Sheet. Generally speaking these costs increase rather than decrease over the years, which typically have a material financial impact on the equity position of Council. These costs are largely uncontrollable. They cannot be directly performance managed and as a rule, tend to be financially favourable.

Any positive effect of the revaluation of non-current assets is ultimately reflected both in the Balance Sheet and Statement of Changes in Equity.

This favourable financial outcome does however put increased pressure on future operating results. The reason being, increased replacement costs of assets tend to translate into increased depreciation costs in future financial years. Depreciation is an expense item in the Comprehensive Income Statement.

All non-current assets have a limited useful life (they wear out over a period of time) therefore these costs have to be shown in the Comprehensive Income Statement as depreciation charges. Depreciation reflects the consumption of the service potential embodied in non-current assets in a given year. If the replacement value of an asset is increased due to periodic revaluations, so too will the annual depreciation costs associated with those assets increase.

Although the depreciation costs in the Comprehensive Income Statement is a 'book entry' as opposed to a direct 'cash' cost, it is a real cost that reflects the value of consumption or deterioration of non-current assets that the Shire owns or controls over a 12-month period.

The systematic review and revaluation of the carrying value of infrastructure assets current replacement cost, in most instances, will result in significant

increases in asset values, which in turn will impact on depreciation charges in future years.

Cash Flow Statement

The Cash Flow Statement shows the movement of cash from operating activities (recurrent income and expenses), investing activities (payments and proceeds associated with non current assets) and financing activities (new borrowings and repayments of principal). The cash position (\$9.99 million) of the Shire has decreased relative to that of the previous year (\$13.85 million).

The liquidity situation of the Council is normally assessed in conjunction with the working capital ratio, which assesses the Council's ability to meet current commitments. The working capital ratio of 1.70 to 1 (current assets to current liabilities) is also marginally weaker than the previous year (2.07 to 1). As discussed above, the early payment of the \$4.61 million defined benefit superannuation call in 2012/13 impacted the cash position which in turn had a flow on impact on the working capital ratio. This does not present as a longer term strategic concern.

Standard Statements

The Standard Statements are presented and reported in accordance with the requirements set out in the Local Government (Democratic Reform) Act 2003.

The main purpose of this report is to compare actual results to the original budgets in key financial statements, including the analysis and explanation of material variations.

The Standard Statements are:

- Income Statement;
- Balance Sheet;
- Cash Flow; and
- Capital Works.

There have been significant variations due to bringing to account defined benefits unfunded superannuation costs and timing of receiving grant funds.

The Standard Statement variation explanation report provides detailed explanation on material variations.

Performance Statement

Council, when preparing an annual budget each financial year must identify Key Strategic Activities (KSA's) to be undertaken and performance targets and measures in relation to each KSA.

The Performance Statement describes the extent to which the business plan was met in that year having regard to those targets and measures.

- Council achieved 7 of the 11 prescribed KSA's by the end of the financial year.
- The completed KSA's include:
- Vegetation planting in the old Mirboo Shire commenced with 25,000 trees to be planted in winter 2013.
- Council's Land Ownership Policy implemented.
- The 2013-2017 Council Plan adopted by Council.
- Development of a Corporate Service Charter and Dispute Resolution Policy.
- Review and adoption by Council of the Asset Management Policy and Strategy.
- Two rounds of Community Grants presented to Council by 30 June 2013.
- Master Plans for Mirboo North and Korumburra swimming polls completed.

The four activities not achieved include:

- Weighted average of five key financial ratios being greater than or equal to 98%. The actual result was 53%. The financial ratios were impacted by paying superannuation liabilities ahead of schedule, natural disaster expenses and recognising provisions for landfill rehabilitation costs. Longer term, the strategic integrity of the long term financial plan remains intact.
- The Housing and Settlement Strategy was not adopted by 30 June 2013. A draft Strategy was endorsed at the 22 May 2013 Council Meeting for public exhibition.
- The Leongatha Industrial Land Use study was not adopted by 30 June 2013. Works are still progressing.
- Council's General Local Law No 1 consultation was not completed by 30 June 2013. The review has commenced and is still progressing.

CONCLUSION

The Financial, Standard and Performance Statements for the 2012/13 financial year, present fairly the financial performance and position of the Council for the financial year.

It is recommended that Council approve the statements in principal, which will then be submitted to the Auditor General for further review.

RECOMMENDATION

That Council:

- 1. Approve the draft Annual Financial Statements, the draft Standard Statements and the draft Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013;**
- 2. Send the draft Annual Financial Statements, the draft Standard Statements and the draft Performance Statement for the year ended 30 June 2013 to the Auditor General for certification; and**
- 3. Authorise Councillors Kieran Kennedy and Nigel Hutchinson Brooks to certify the Financial Statements, Standard Statements and Performance Statement on behalf of Council, once the audit has been finalised.**

STAFF DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST

Nil

CLOSED SESSION

Consideration of confidential matters under the Local Government Act 1989, Section 89(2).

According to Section 89 of the Local Government Act 1989 (the Act), Council may consider items in closed session. There must be a resolution to move 'In Committee' stating the reasons why the matter(s) need to be considered in this way. The reasons provided for within the Act are matters concerning personnel, personal hardship, industrial issues, contracts, proposed developments, legal advice or any other matter that Council considers would be prejudicial, to it or any other person.

Once 'In Committee' discussions and debate have concluded, a further resolution to resume open Council is required.

Nil

SECTION C - MEETING CLOSED

NEXT MEETING

The next Ordinary Council Meeting open to the public will be held on Wednesday, 25 September 2013 commencing at 2pm in the Council Chambers, Leongatha.