



GREATER BENDIGO RURAL COMMUNITIES COMMITTEE

Priorities for action 2017-2018

The Greater Bendigo Rural Communities Committee (RCC) was developed as an action under the Greater Bendigo Rural Communities Strategy. The Rural Communities Strategy was adopted by Council in August 2016. The RCC includes a representative from Greater Bendigo's twelve community planning committees and related groups and met for the first time on 21 March 2017. The aim of the RCC is to provide advice to Council on important rural issues within the municipality. RCC members have identified the following focus areas as priorities in the 2017-18 financial year:

OBJECTIVE	ACTION	PERFORMANCE INDICATOR	COMPLETION DATE - 30 June 2018 Comments on progress
To foster communications knowledge and skills.	We will deliver some communications workshops targeted at RCC members and other interested community members focused on community engagement principles and tools (including social media platforms)	Workshops delivered.	Work in progress: The Community Engagement workshop was conducted at the April meeting. Participant feedback and voting priorities have been collated. Subsequent capacity building activities will focus on these priorities. These will be implemented across the wider community as budget allows.
To support the development of Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan.	We will be active participants in workshops relating to the development of the Plan and provide rural perspectives and review the final draft of the plan during community consultation.	RCC member participation in workshops. Rural perspectives / priorities reflected in Council's Health and Wellbeing Plan. Review the Draft Plan in late August/early September 2017.	Complete: Members of the Committee participated in Plan development consultation opportunities. These opportunities included workshops and surveys.
To support the review of Council's	We will be active participants in	RCC member input into Strategy	Work in progress: The review

Economic Development Strategy.	input opportunities offered as part of the Strategy review process and provide rural perspectives.	review process. Other rural community member input into Strategy review process encouraged by RCC members. Rural perspectives / priorities reflected in Council's Economic Development Strategy.	process is still being refined. The new Strategy will have a stronger focus on economic development in rural communities. An RCC representative is being encouraged to join the 'Made and Grown in Rural Bendigo' Reference Group, which will form part of the overall Economic Development Strategy development process.
To advocate for increased resources for rural communities , including for Community Planning Committees and the like.	We will explore potential 'back bone' models of support for rural communities and present recommendations for Council consideration. This could link in with a potential review of Council's Community Granting Policy.	Model options explored and a preferred model identified. Recommendations presented to Council. RCC member input into Policy review process.	Complete: The grant programs review process in complete. Implementation of the new program will commence from July 1 2018. Councillors have documented their community engagement strategies for each ward for the forthcoming year, designed to ensure community members can be included in discussions and decisions about matters that interest them. A range of advocacy about rural matters has been undertaken. The RCC and the internal Rural Communities Working group meetings provide important forums for this exchange.
To advocate for more effective and affordable NBN / internet / mobile phone services in rural communities.	We will work with service providers and staff from the City's Communications and Community Partnerships Units to share information about the best	Information developed and shared.	Complete: Following Committee feedback, the Mayor led a program of advocacy to other government agencies and nbn. Information about how community members could log

	pathways for logging / escalating issues around service provision in rural areas.		issues or concerns was also jointly developed and broadly distributed.
To guide transport service planning.	We will be active participants in the Transport For Victoria's Local Transport Forums and provide rural perspectives.	RCC member participation in Local Transport Forums.	Complete: Members of the Committee participated in Forum processes (including workshops and surveys). Committee members have now also been invited to join the Integrated Transport and Land Use Study (ITLUS) Implementation Reference Group to ensure rural community perspectives continue to be considered.