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President Glenn McFadzean

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PLAN PUTS COUNCIL ON PATH TO MEETING COMMUNITY NEEDS

Murrindindi Shire Council has endorsed the first year review of its Council and Strategic Resource Plan.

Mayor Peter Beales said the Plan would continue to guide the Council on strategic projects, initiatives and financial management through to 2013.

"Our attention now turns to meeting the year two objectives of our Plan, in particular the transition phase from bushfire recovery to across-shire operations," Cr Beales said.

"We have set some challenging targets, but we have every confidence that we will continue to see positive changes across the shire that will instill a strong belief that this is a great place to live, work, invest and visit.

"Our 2009-13 Plan is wide-ranging and includes activities such as the development of the Murrindindi 2030 Community Plan, grooming our up and coming young leaders through our youth services program, lobbying for funding to keep on improving our recreational facilities and developing a range of programs to support our business and tourism operators."

Cr Beales said the Council was now looking to finalise its 2010/11 budget and continuing to work on a comprehensive community response with the handing down of the Royal Commission report into the 2009 bushfires.

"One of the key activities in this work around budgets, strategic planning and financial management has been our open dialogue

with our community and taking on board their comments and thoughts," Cr Beales said.

"We have many demands to meet because of the make-up of our communities. As a result we are striving to achieve the best outcome at all times for the shire as a whole."

The draft Budget is open for public comment. Written submissions can be made via email to msc@murrindindi.vic.gov.au or posted to Murrindindi Shire Council, PO Box 138, Alexandra, 3714. Submissions will be accepted until 5pm Thursday 9 September 2010.

TOURISM GUIDE HELPS MURRINDINDI GROW

A new tourism guide for Murrindindi will help visitors discover this stunning region as it continues its strong rebuilding and recovery from the February 2009 bushfires.

Tourism and Major Events Minister Tim Holding was joined by Ben Hardman, Member for Seymour and Parliamentary Secretary for Bushfire Reconstruction and the region's tourism recovery group to launch the Murrindindi Official Visitors Guide.

"The Murrindindi region, with its many popular towns like Yea, Marysville, Kinglake and Alexandra, has so much to offer visitors from around Victoria, interstate and overseas," Mr Holding said.

"The region is recovering well from the devastating Black Saturday Bushfires and we want more and more visitors to come and experience all that there is to offer. The new guide provides tourists with the latest information on the best places to visit, stay, eat, shop and relax in the region.

"Murrindindi is fantastic all-year round. Visitors can explore beautiful alpine trails at Lake Mountain, enjoy waterskiing and boating on Lake Eildon and try local produce and wine at restaurants and cafes throughout the region.

The Mitchell and Murrindindi regions were provided \$600,000 as part of the Commonwealth and State government's Victorian Bushfire Tourism Industry Support Package.

A Murrindindi tourism iPhone application will also soon be available.

Mr Hardman said it was heartening to watch the region pull together to recover from the bushfires and to re-establish itself as a premier tourism destination.

"This shows that tourism operators in the region are ready to welcome visitors and are definitely open for business," Mr Hardman said. "I congratulate the Murrindindi Mitchell Bushfire Tourism Recovery Group on these new initiatives and look forward to continued tourism growth in the region."

The Official Visitors' Guide and the Official Visitors' Maps will be available at Visitor Information Centres throughout the region and in neighbouring areas.