

Report of Citizen's Jury

September 2016

City of Greater Bendigo

Citizen's Jury

September 2016

Version 1.0

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Executive Summary

The Jury submits in this report the following themes for Council's serious consideration when planning to make Bendigo the most liveable rural city in Australia:

Arts
Business
Community
Efficiency
Environment
Health
Innovation
Youth

Within those themes there are 44 recommendations to Council. Amongst these are:

Arts & Community:

Continue present funding for the Bendigo Gallery and theatres
Better promote the success of the Bendigo arts program
A space for local artists to create, develop and exhibit their skills
Encourage community gardens

Business, Environment & Innovation

Prioritise using local business for council works
Facilitate business opportunities in smaller towns to help improve growth
Personal contact with local business community
Support innovative business ventures for local and global market
Encourage energy efficient and sustainable house and property design
Encourage investment in solar farms/ alternative energy supplies
Adopt more advanced waste technology systems

Health & Youth

Multi-purpose community/youth 'hub' to integrate existing services and facilities
Invite local groups (arts & crafts); clubs (sporting, cars, motor bikes) to participate – mentoring program
Pursue and implement '10 Minute Neighbourhoods' concept

Bike paths linking CBD, La Trobe and suburbs.

Efficiency

Continue the internal review process of all COGB departments

On-going review of all council facilities and properties to ensure they meet current community needs and expectations.

Investigate selling, leasing or hiring council facilities and properties.

Introduction

The Jury's comments

In preparation for the new four-year plan required for Councils under the Local Government Act 1989 the City of Greater Bendigo (COGB) has utilised a Citizens' Jury (the Jury) to consult residents from across the municipality. By consulting in this unique fashion, the Jury has provided input into the strategic vision for the COGB from a wide viewpoint. Many, though not all, aspects of the requirements of local government have been considered.

Council asked the question: What should Council spend our money on to shape the community's future?

The question provides a wide ranging opportunity to propose initiatives to ensure the future we wish to pursue: **is to make the City of Greater of Bendigo the most liveable rural city in Australia.**

The deliberations of the Citizen's Jury, which consisted of a randomly-selected group of individuals, have been consolidated in this report. Though diverse, the men and women on this jury have in common one desire: to see their community develop supported by an active, forward-thinking, resourceful and resourced council.

Many and varied issues, those raised by members of the jury as well as those submitted by members of the Bendigo community, have been explored exhaustively. The jury has sought advice and information from a number of experts in various fields, and drawn on the knowledge of councillors and employees of COGB.

Though some topics and subjects have been explored in depth others, due to constraints of time, others have not been considered. The Jury's silence on any subject or topic should draw no inference, positive or negative.

The Jury's recommendations have been intensely debated, meet the Jury's own decision making criteria and have the support of the majority of the group (>80% consensus).

We the jury worked collaboratively with a shared belief that this report, which takes into consideration the reality of competing priorities, will assist council in their deliberations, decisions and planning for the future: **to ensure Bendigo is the most liveable rural city in Australia.**

We have worked with a shared belief in the community of the City of Greater Bendigo to produce a report that takes into consideration the reality of competing priorities, values all our people, and looks towards a happy, positive future.

The Jury's Recommendations

Decision-making criteria

In order to decide what we want Council to spend our money on to shape the community's future, the jury decided that each proposed recommendation must meet two criteria; We developed a simple set of criteria for the recommendations. Each recommendation we put forward must meet both criteria.

The two criteria we decided on are:

- Is the issue within Council's operational responsibility or somewhere where Council has an advocacy role; and
- Does the issue provide an economic, social or environmental benefit to the people of the City of Greater Bendigo?

Themes from our discussion

The Jury submits in its report the following themes for Council's serious consideration when planning to make Bendigo the most liveable city in Australia:

Arts

Business

Community

Efficiency

Environment

Health

Innovation

Youth

Recommendations

A table containing the full Jury recommendations is presented below.

Citizen's Jury Recommendations

Theme	Recommendation	Rationale
Arts	Better market the Arts success story in the CoGB to the community	Helps the community to understand just how successful the investment in the Arts has been and how it continues to bring in social, artistic and financial benefits for the local community and economy. This could be achieved by promotion of the dollar impact the arts has on the wider economy.
Arts	Keep the Arts status quo	The Exhibitions at the Art Gallery in the City of Greater Bendigo are highly successful and economically are worth the investment (expenditure has been made back with a profit). Exhibitions offer entertainment and education to residents. These world-class exhibitions draw tourists to the city and region and create a significant financial flow on effect to local businesses. They also are establishing Bendigo as a significant and artistic and cultural centre. Other unmeasurable outcomes include increase in arts career paths for locals and sustaining local employment which both have a social benefit to the community. The jury members feel that because of the success of the arts in the CoGB, the council should not look at paring back the services, exhibitions and staff. On balance, neither should they consider investing more to the detriment of other services.
Arts Community	We want council to fund Community-based art programs	<p>Giving the community the ability to develop artistic skills and an avenue for expression through the arts. Council funding these programs and targeting them to disadvantaged areas may help disadvantaged populations to access them:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Chalk art on walkways • Murals on council walls/property • Access to artists for mentoring and assistance
Arts Youth	Connecting the Arts with CoGBs Young people	<p>Although the concept of a youth hub will be covered in the 'Youth' theme, one of the 7 key areas the jury identified, the youth hub will be discussed in this report due to the arts link. Several jurors submitted ideas under the 'Arts' theme to connecting the arts in with the proposed youth hub as a way for CoGB's young people to express themselves. Artistic expression in all forms (visual art, performing art, music, writing, poetry, dance, to name a few) is well documented for its benefits to health and wellbeing. Sometimes 'just talking about your issues' is not easy for young people who may fear stigma and isolation from their peers. The jury is proposing the incorporation of an arts program into the youth hub.</p> <p>This can come in many forms- workshops, classes, hands-on sessions with local artists. But the key is to give young people a chance to learn or develop skills for artistic expression. There should be a link made with local artists from different</p>

		modalities to perhaps provide tuition on some skills that cannot be learnt in a book. This could also give local artists the opportunity to feel they can contribute to the community positively.
Business	Recognise the crucial importance of business and establish Bendigo as business innovation powerhouse, promoting, advocating & resourcing business growth locally, nationally & internationally for the coming decades.	The “Doing Business in Shepparton” television, radio and press campaign recently launched provides major competition to the Bendigo brand requires an immediate competitive strategy Bendigo has the skilled entrepreneurs, successful businesses, NFPs and social enterprises and community and business networks and groups to back its positioning as a Business Innovation and Renovation Hub; Council should establish Bendigo’s reputation as a ‘Business Innovation and Renovation Hub’, leveraging its existing investment in current, developing and planned infrastructure, resourcing, promoting and advocating for the growth of existing Bendigo business.
Business	Rectify disproportionate funding by council for business development. More actively engage with COGB based small business to promote employment growth by employing increased numbers of professional and qualified business development staff within the next 12 months	We want council to significantly increase funding allocation to business development The economic development unit is underfunded and needs professional economic development specialists as staff to better engage with small business in the municipality <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Six staff members for the unit cannot possibly service/support/advocate for the number of businesses. • Better understanding and support needs to be provided during the planning stages of creation of new enterprise. • They need to go ‘undercover’ within small business so they understand the pressures of running small business in Bendigo • Privatisation of parts of the economic development unit needs to be explored • Council should establish a qualified team to identify existing Australian and international businesses that appreciate the Bendigo • Prospect and to identify local businesses that have the capability, resources and appetite to expand their offering from Bendigo.
Business	Appreciate emerging businesses and create Small business incubator within 12 months	Council forms a qualified and experienced business team to establish an Innovation and Renovation Hub that provides practical, strategic and immediate access to information and supported decision making around business innovation, new business, business restructuring that leads to jobs growth and business diversity in our region for all prospective business people in our community.
Business	Position strategically for the future and host a future thinkers group to identify new opportunities within 12 months	Future thinkers / think tank to identify opportunities in a fast paced digital market w/ reps from youth, business, early, health, environment, arts and government

Business	Work cleverly, and review available data for business opportunity	<p>Provide a data service to business on market opportunities within the next 12 months</p> <p>Council establishes a qualified team to review all available data (ref: Matt Nichol, Remplan) to identify viable, innovative and sustainable business opportunities within the Bendigo region in education, health, performance and arts, environment, finance and insurance, community, waste management, alternative energy, sustainability, youth, aged care, content creation, manufacturing, agriculture and consulting services (Bendigo Prospect).</p> <p>Establish a qualified working group to determine the scope of the new markets opportunity for existing Bendigo business afforded by the upgrade of the Bendigo Airport and to positively advocate for the quality of Bendigo's business offering in those new markets.</p>
Business	Value the work and commitment of local people and communicate in person with businesses.	A review of the communication channels to business owners needs to be undertaken. Digital and Printed communication channels are not sufficient. People want to speak to people. We want – 6 people working within the EDU calling every business every 90 days – 1 face to face follow up every 12 months.
Business	Incentivise Business Investment	As a principle, we want the council to incentivise investment in business in the COGB. For example offering prospective CBD traders a period where rates are waived. The properties are not owned by the council however the rates are generally paid by the tenants and this is something that can be controlled. By having our CBD full of traders this will impact on achieving the desired outcome of a full vibrant CBD.
Business	As an immediate priority, Prioritise local trades for works and services supplied in Bendigo	<p>Council insources local trade and reports quarterly on its expenditure on outsourcing and that Council seeks to promote Bendigo Businesses as outsourced providers in other municipalities. For example:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We don't want our small business missing out over the Easter period due to the Council bringing in caterers from Geelong. • We want a 10% tolerance factored in when developing budgets whereby if a local providers quote for good and services is greater than an out of town provider the local quote is selected. • COGB needs to seek any auxiliary product of service required by the town from a business registered on the COGB business database. Even if there may be a cost associated with this.
Business	Survey registered businesses for useful, qualitative and quantitative data	Council establishes a Business Representation Group, separate from the Bendigo Business Council, in order to listen to the more than 7000 local businesses who are not members of the BBC and to leverage their knowledge, skill and success.

		Council designs, distributes, analyses and reports upon a business survey that produces qualitative and quantitative data for use in business development and strategy.
Business	Target business events to participant-driven topics	The events which are run need to be targeted to real business problems like tax planning and the social problems that can come from running a small business e.g.: Family and relationships, paper work, new technology and opportunity
Business	Help businesses in small towns to grow by exporting products using the Bendigo Airport.	Council to work with businesses in our smaller towns to leverage opportunity afforded by the new Airport development through active communication and advocacy.
Business	Advocate to attract social enterprises to alleviate demand on Council coffers by delivering services.	We want a council that understands the importance of world class services and works proactively to develop relationships and partnerships that increase council's capacity over time.
Business	Support the growth of the creative economy for export by advertising and advocating for	Council supports the development of Bendigo's Creative Economy, leveraging the success of its investment in The Arts and the participation of local creative services industries to demonstrate Bendigo's world class capability to a national and international audience.
Community	We want council to continue family and community days	Council to increase their role in educating communities, special focus should be given to the disadvantaged and at risk populations. Encourage cultural participation, for example community cultural cuisine festivals. Family and Community Days have historically been a success in Bendigo, with large turnouts and participation from businesses and community stakeholders. It is important to continue supporting these ventures to ensure a resilient and accepting community.
Community	We want council to review evaluate public transport between Bendigo City and smaller towns	Council has an advocacy role with the State government in helping to secure better public transport as the population in our smaller towns grows. This should include regional areas such as Marong, Maiden Gully etc. This allows more opportunities for vulnerable community members to have access to a wider range of services. Ensure reliability of these transport services through examination and advocacy.
Community	We want council to promote community connectivity through community hubs and programs	<p><u>How:</u> We want Council to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase the number of, and improve existing community 'hubs' to provide resources/education for/about: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ lifestyle diseases, ○ healthy nutrition, ○ Early childhood issues; ○ basic budgeting skills; ○ culturally and linguistically diverse community members

- connections to other services

These could be in the form of additional neighbourhood community houses, on-line services, youth hubs, formal ‘community hub’ program for early years in partnership with schools.

- We’d like to see a ‘one-stop-shop’ where an individual or family could come in and get help with a range of issues.
- Provide a visual arts studio space for the underprivileged to develop arts skills

A place does not currently exist for those who are disadvantaged either financially or socially to have an opportunity to draw or paint as a form of artistic expression or therapy. This may be as part of a community house or attached to some other suitable program.

- Increase Community Partnership Grants. Change the structure, it’s too rigid – make the grants issue related at times – tailored grant programs e.g. community gardens, youth driving (L-P program)
- Continue to build on community crowd funding e.g. The Big Give
- Sponsor and or facilitate activities in the mall (to also reduce unwanted/inappropriate behaviours)
- Create opportunities for people to engage in healthy activities by collaboration with local sporting groups.
- Co-develop spaces with the communities that will use them,
- Continue participation in regional forums that focus on alcohol and drugs and crime

Ideas for programs to be included in hubs: Embed health into a range of activities – prevention and education;

Community

We want council to establish and develop Community Gardens for citizens use

How:

- Investigate how Council can encourage and facilitate (e.g. trial at St Johns Close as per submission?)
- Creation of food hubs – locally grown food sold locally
- Local food, nature strips.
- Fruit trees planted as street trees.
- Using disused school grounds and public spaces
- Removing roadblocks; a staff member to facilitate?
- Connect food hubs to the CBD (particularly Hargreaves Mall) – food distribution/sales

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have local chef demonstrating how to use the local produce either at the place it's grown or in the mall or at family/community days • Work with government to utilise Crown Land for this purpose
Efficiency	COGB shall make available ongoing professional development for councillors such as in the areas of conflict resolution, interpreting documents and strategies.	Councillors may not have the skills required to communicate and cooperate with each other, council staff and the public. Councillors may also not have the skills to work with complicated documents or issues.
Efficiency	Council shall continue to review facilities and buildings to determine that they meet current community needs and expectation. Investigate selling of unnecessary facilities or offsetting costs through leasing or hire.	Council are looking at all the land they own and reviewing the need to keep vacant land. We encourage council to continue the process of assessing the viability of the buildings they own. This includes considering such matters as community use and expectations, maintenance costs and social outcomes. Council should continue to look for public/private partnerships, such as leasing parts of underutilised building to offset costs.
Efficiency	Council shall continue with the internal review process of all COGB departments	We encourage council to continue the review of individual departments to ensure the most efficient use of resources. There has been a productivity increase over the past three years of about 25% in the planning department, however Council cannot specify targets in each area as they are so diverse.
Environment	We want council to continue to protect local natural environment	<p>Preserve existing bushland so we have green spaces and reserves in the future both within and outside town limits,</p> <p>Promote community to use it for their health;</p> <p>Continue to protect bushland, historical and Dja Dja Wurrung sites.</p> <p>Use natural environment to improve mental health.</p> <p>Build connections – as per Health and Happiness section of the Greater Bendigo Environment Strategy 2016-2021 and continue to promote importance of outdoor life, using current outdoor facilities, draw attention to cultural features (European and Aboriginal),</p>
Environment	We want council to encourage energy efficient and sustainable house and property designs	<p>We would like to see the Planning Department of the COGB promote and support sustainability and energy efficient design of buildings in relation to their environment. There are many suggestions how this may be done in the 'Citizens Jury submission 6' from Pat Horan.</p> <p>An area of particular note in this area is the promotion and use of grey water in new developments. We suggest COGB investigate the possibility of new developments having their own grey water recycling systems in place with a view to enabling gardens, lawns and trees to be planted and maintained in this hot, dry climate.</p> <p>Council to implement subsidy/incentive scheme to encourage installation of water tanks.</p>

Environment	We want council to encourage investment in a solar farm	<p>The Bendigo region is well suited to the production of solar energy. We would like to have the COGB advocate for solar farms in the region. One way COBG can encourage solar farms is to ensure that planning provisions are in place to cater for those wanting to establish such farms and to make the application process as simple and streamlined as possible.</p> <p>We suggest COGB investigate the possibility establishing a solar farm as an investment as it is possible that low long term borrowing rates may make this a sound investment for the future.</p> <p>We also encourage COGB to plan to have solar panels on Council buildings to offset council's energy costs.</p>
Environment	We want council to adopt more advanced waste technology systems	<p>The most pressing environmental concern that those who make up the Citizens Jury would like to present to the COGB is the need to manage the waste we produce. We acknowledge that Bendigo has committed to a 7 year contract for the disposal of green waste and note that our municipal solid waste will soon be sent to Patho as the landfill at Eaglehawk reaches capacity.</p> <p>This is a short term answer to a long term problem and we propose the COGB put in place a long term plan to build a waste management plant that will enable waste to be disposed of in an environmentally and economically sound manner. Submission 5 received by the Citizens Jury from Brian Stanmore states that thermal treatment to minimise the amount of material sent to landfill and to generate green electricity, would be suitable for this city. There are over 1000 waste-to-energy plants operating across the world, which indicates that this technology is both mature and reliable.</p> <p>There are a variety of methods currently being used and developed to manage waste in an environmentally sound manner and we encourage the COGB to look at ways of establishing a plant in this region to deal with various types of waste from Bendigo and further afield.</p> <p>As the cost associated with these plants is high we suggest a public/private partnership or engaging with neighbouring councils, as a possible method of raising the necessary finance and note that most methods of disposal produce a useful and saleable by-product, by the expiry of the current contracts to export organic waste in 2023.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Council should consider advanced waste technology but retain recycling and compost. Reduce, reduce, reduce!! • Introduce quarterly hard rubbish collection weekends Promotion of hard waste removal opportunities that currently exist.

- Continued collaboration with adjoining/nearby councils re- waste management
- Improve education on the importance of recycling and how it benefits the community (new green benches in parks, etc.)
- Implement a method to promote and encourage all local businesses to offer corn starch bags which are biodegradable.

***Innovation**

In support of the initiatives as stated above within the environment theme, “we want council to adopt more advanced waste technology systems”, council to consider an innovative approach to waste management, perhaps through public private partnerships, promotion and engagement with neighbouring councils, and lobbying of state and federal governments for financial support to establish a Waste-to-Energy plant in COGB.

Waste to Energy Management – Heating and Lighting the way to a sustainable future

Waste-to-Energy Plants thermally treat (incinerate with energy recovery) household and similar waste that remains after waste prevention, reuse and recycling by generating energy from it.

They provide necessary public infrastructure for:

- Careful handling of waste
- Conserving natural resources
- Minimising possible emissions

The plants can be operated both by municipalities and private companies. Waste-to-Energy Plant’s ensure high environmental standards, by achieving low emissions operating on Best Available Practices and maintaining state of the art energy production from not otherwise reusable or recyclable materials. Recycling and Waste-to-Energy are complementary waste treatment method, and together are instrumental in diverting biodegradable waste from landfills. Waste-to-Energy Plants produce heat and electricity from waste, with a potential to deliver to households and industry, thereby replacing the energy produced by conventional power plants, using fossil fuels. They help to reduce CO2 emissions and highlight the close link between the sustainable management of natural resources and energy recovery.

Waste-to-Energy Contributing to Resource Efficiency

Valuable parts of bottom ash, which is the residue from the combustion of household waste, can be recycled. The combustion process cleans and separates metals and inerts from mixed waste, which results in possible further recycling of these metals into new products such as aluminium castings for the automotive industry. Other remaining minerals can be used as secondary aggregates, e.g. in road construction or in building products

Filtering devices minimise the emissions into the atmosphere, optimise the Waste – to-Energy process and also increase the energy efficiency of the plant so that it can generate as much sustainable energy from the waste as possible and thereby

		<p>provides a practical solutions to the waste management initiative and climate protection goals.</p> <p>Key Benefits</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Boost alternative energy from waste - Reduce dependence on landfills - Promote public participation (PPP) - Reduce waste transportation costs
Health	Facilitate more immunisation clinics sessions after-hours, on weekends and at different locations	<p>Discussion with members of the Citizen’s Jury who have experienced the Council-lead immunisation sessions had noted how hard it is to access these sessions. For parents working full time during the week, there is only 1 after-hours session and no weekend sessions available.</p> <p>There is a link between higher income, IQ and university education with lower immunisation rates- by targeting access to immunisation sessions to these groups (potentially in those that work), there might be an increase in vaccination rates for CoGB.</p>
Health	Utilise MCHNs to deliver immunisations during home visits	<p>Maternal and Child Health Nurses (MCHNs) are employed through the CoGB and their primary role is to visit women and children in the community (or at the child health centres) and address health issues for these constituents. It was raised during the Citizen’s Jury discussions about this topic that this would be a great avenue to help increase access to immunisation.</p> <p>MCHNs working for CoGB council should be driving council fleet vehicles for their home visits, as to ensure CoGB is fulfilling its OH&S workplace obligations. Therefore fitting out fleet cars with portable vaccination storage fridges is merely a matter of investing in the infrastructure and training MCHNs in immunisation administration including anaphylaxis management in the community.</p>
Health	Translator/ Cultural liaison to work with NESB population to increase immunisation participation	<p>CoGB is currently seeing an increase in populations where English is a second language. The barriers facing these constituents are multiplied from the above due to the language barrier. It is also widely acknowledged that these people may have had very poor health care in their country of origin as well as cultural perceptions regarding vaccination.</p>
Health	Employ more workers to speed up intake process for HACC services	<p>With such a long wait time for ACAS referrals in the Loddon Mallee region (a disparity with other regions in the state) it seems logical that aged persons should be able to access HACC services more efficiently until they are able to access or require higher level care (admission to a nursing home) with their ACAS assessment completed.</p>

Health	Extend available basic HACC services to families in the '1st Quarter'	Historically HACC services were also available for families with young children. There was provision for respite, meals on wheels and house cleaning. For our very vulnerable constituents, particularly those who find themselves in a low socio-economic demographic, these services may be a missing part of a complex puzzle.
Health Community	Work with user groups to: Develop a bike path network in new neighbourhoods; connect current bike paths; Provide a purpose-built bike path from CBD to La Trobe University Increase built bicycle infrastructure at shopping centres, tourist spots and transport hubs	Encourages use of bicycles as a form of carbon-neutral, exercise promoting transport Council should continue to develop the bike path network. This should be done in consultation with user groups; education providers and business; and VicRoads to make sure that a variety of user needs are met. Encourage use of bicycles as a form of carbon-neutral, exercise promoting transport CoGB has one of the highest rates of obesity in Australia; increasing physical exercise opportunities for its constituents should be very high on its priority list- this is also reflected in the submission to the jury by Bendigo Health who is very interested in a shared relationship and responsibility with encouraging physical exercise. This ties in well with both council and Bendigo Health's 'Healthy Communities' strategy (Proposal submitted by Bike Inc.) Encourages students and teachers from these areas to utilise carbon neutral, exercise promoting modes of transport Encourages use of bicycles as a form of carbon-neutral, exercise promoting mode of transport
Health Innovation	Pursue the '10 minute neighbourhood' concept	The CoGB municipality is spread widely geographically therefore the concept of 10 minute neighbourhoods should again be a high priority for Bendigo Council. There is the desire to decentralise services in the CBD due to overcrowding and traffic issues; this could only be achieved if the principles of the '10 Minute neighbourhood' were to be pursued vigorously. With the number of houses being built every year in the CoGB, the council should be including in the planning process the provision of services and infrastructure to support being able to walk to local services (i.e. GP practice, supermarket, pharmacy, post office, sporting facilities, etc.).
Health	Advocate for a Dementia care 'Village' site within CoGB	Several years ago, a dementia 'village' was set up in Weesp, near Amsterdam Holland called Hogewey. Hogewey is home to 152 men and women living with severe dementia. 240 "villagers" who are actually trained geriatric nurses and caregivers dressed in street clothes provide around-the-clock care. The staff take care of everything from cooking meals and planning activities to assisting with bathing, personal care and administering medications. Even the individuals staffing the various village "businesses" are trained in dementia care, to help clients go about their day. This facility has seen astounding outcomes for their

		<p>residents- they require less medication, they are more active which keeps them in overall better health, families are an important part of the inclusive process, and their quality of life is so much more improved right up until they pass away. Dementia is on the rise all over Australia, why not be a trendsetter in dementia management here in Bendigo?</p>
Health	Continue Mental Health Services Advocacy	<p>There is a mix of state and federal government funding for mental health services and in CoGB primarily Bendigo Health for acute and transitional care, and private enterprises including Headspace and MIND Australia for ongoing community rehabilitation provisions it.</p> <p>The jury all felt very strongly about the need for council to be advocating on behalf of its residents for access to good mental health treatment and support, for both people living with a mental health issue and their family/carers.</p>
Innovation	We want council to establish and foster an innovation team within council, and to provide support an operating budget for funding their initiatives and provide links to industry and innovation experts	To promote the establishment of a team tasked at fostering innovation within council and COGB.
Innovation	We want council to establish an “on-line” register which the public can access to suggest ideas and upon which local residents can vote for those ideas they want council to sponsor and / or adopt	To provide a forum through which council can engage with the local Greater Bendigo community
Innovation	We want council to develop an online platform which allows the community to crowd fund or contribute to projects put forward to / by COGB	To facilitate public funding of projects.
Innovation Community Health	We want council to take a strong advocacy role to facilitate a housing project for the elderly, disabled, disadvantaged and homeless within the community in COGB.	<p>There is currently an unrealistic wait for people for social housing in Bendigo (around 7 years on the waitlist). In the meantime people may be living rough or ‘couch surfing’ with friends and family until housing becomes available. The dangers are well documented for people who have no choice but to live on the streets- violence, starvation, exposure to the elements, stigma and discrimination- all feed into a negative self-perpetuating cycle. There is a strong link to homelessness and mental health problems, therefore improvements in accessibility to housing could be immensely beneficial to these people.</p> <p>Source – Wintringham’s “A home until stumps” http://www.wintringham.org.au/ For the aged, disabled and disadvantaged – an innovative approach to homelessness as a public priority</p> <p>The Wintringham vision - older homeless people have a right to decent aged care services and housing simply because they are Australian citizens.</p>

Wintringham is an example that has been able to demonstrate that there are alternative methods of responding to the problem of homelessness and has developed services to overcome the problem, whilst acknowledging there needs to be a more vigorous linkage between the aged care service system and that of the provision of safe and affordable housing.

The elderly homeless remain one of the most disadvantaged and powerless groups in Australian society. At a time of life when most people would be enjoying their retirement, elderly homeless men and women live outside mainstream society making do with inadequate food, clothing and housing.

Wintringham Housing Limited, a wholly owned subsidiary of Wintringham, was established to concentrate exclusively on delivering housing services for the elderly poor.

- Council to engage with and support the strategies as outlined by organisations like Wintringham.
- Lobby the state and federal governments for financial support in these endeavours, and make provision in planning for new housing developments to ensure land is available for these types of accommodation initiatives.
- facilitate housing projects that support older homeless men and women with options that offer a range of affordable high quality accommodation and care services.
- influence policies and practice at all relevant levels of government to ensure that elderly homeless men and women receive equal right of access to aged care and accommodation services.

Youth We want council to implement a Youth Hub (Build or Provide Building Space)

Need to break the cycle of apathy and generational unemployment.

We feel that there is a need for an informal place where youth can engage so they can know there are people who can help, who are interested in them, that they themselves have something to offer to society and to each other; value each other; invest in communication strategies to 'talk their talk', use their language.

The mentor is not meant to be an 'authority' figure. In the past two years, successful integrated Youth Hubs have been set up with funding coming from Federal and State Governments, local Council, and private business.

There is no need for a feasibility study to evaluate the need; the possible success; the practicality of such a project. It has already been done. There are readily-

accessible models and examples on the internet; contact details to individuals involved in existing services such as at:

- Colac, Vic: <http://www.swarh2.com.au/cah/content/youth-health-hub>
- Eastwood, N.S.W: Youth Hub Service Model(PDF, 1009KB) / Youth Hub Presentation Overview(PDF, 127KB)

For the Colac facility: the Federal Government contributed \$850 for the building (rooms rented to GP; psychologies to provide on-going income); the Council gave \$30,000, and State Government provided funding from its Health Department.

This would be a multi-disciplinary service in one place where young people feel comfortable; where they can find help for mental or physical health issues; someone to talk to about personal problems; learn the basics about fiscal management, business possibilities; life-skills; art and culture, and 'just hang out with friends'. A place and space where they feel comfortable.

Under one roof, Youth Hubs or Our Space would integrate services, or be a first-point-of-call to introduce, and perhaps direct young people to more specific services they might need.

Youth	We want council to provide a facilitator to develop a youth mentoring program	Today's youth will be the decision-makers of the community's future; from today's youth will emerge tomorrow's leaders. There are numerous services focusing on early childhood development; parks and public spaces, playgrounds for children; family and aged support; but is there a public place and space for young teenagers and adults aged between 12 and 25 to call their own?
Youth	Council to advocate for opportunities for youth to engage in new pursuits that build their creativity, interests and job readiness.	Create mechanism for youth independence, and the ability to pursue interests that will self-motivate people to change their life outlook, e.g.:Historic motor cycle group volunteers to introduce and mentor young kids into making and riding cycles equivalent to a men's shed intergenerational with older people and young people to build something different groups for a short period Artists, writers, musicians, printers to mentor, foster and allow young people to explore and develop their own creativity. Introduce young people to craftsmanship to build self-worth and pride in achievement; create self-respect for themselves, and then in turn for others; develop a sense of belongingNeed for informal setting where older people can meet and interact with young people and ask them what that want ... their views and opinions and follow up what they are saying if there is negative reaction at home to their idea

**Recommendation changes during session 6 but not voted on by the jury:*

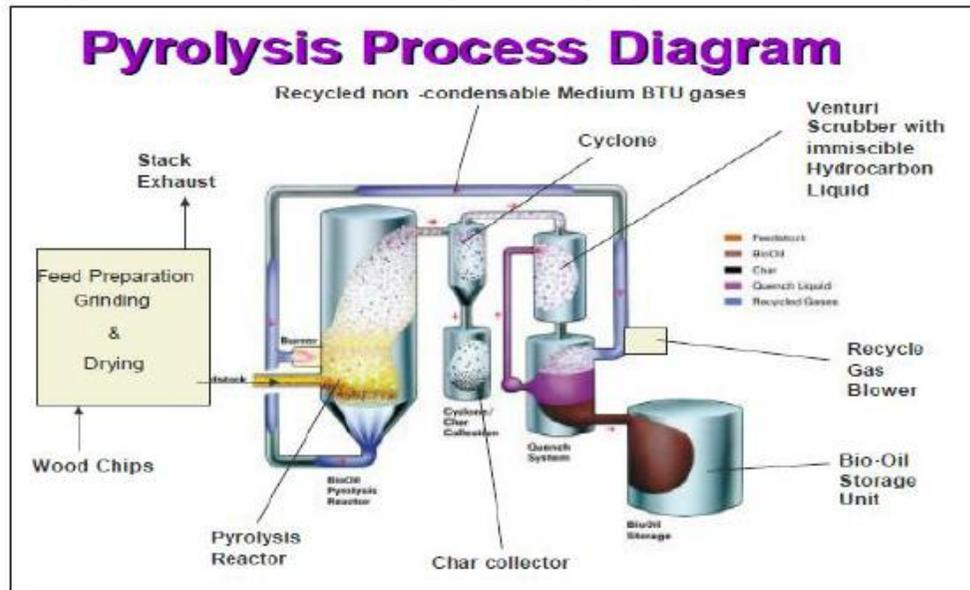
Innovation In support of the initiatives as stated above within the environment theme, “we want council to adopt more advanced waste technology systems”, council to consider an innovative approach to waste management,

Waste to Energy Management – Heating and Lighting the way to a sustainable future

Pyrolysis

Is a thermochemical decomposition of organic material at elevated temperatures in the absence of oxygen. It involves the simultaneous change of chemical composition and physical phase.

In simple terms it is the treatment of domestic and industrial waste by heating at very high temperatures (800 degrees C) in the absence of oxygen. Below is a schematic diagram of a pyrolysis plant.



Benefits of turning waste into energy:

If a pyrolysis plant were to be constructed for or by COGB they could not only save money on the treatment of municipal waste but could also make money by treating industrial waste and outsource other waste from surrounding councils and even dip into the municipal and industrial waste from Melbourne.

The possibilities seem to be endless.



Estimated Cost of a Pyrolysis Plant

From information we have been able to find the cost of a **waste to energy Pyrolysis Plant** would be in the region of \$9.5 million and capable of processing 20 tonnes of waste per day.

Tyre Pyrolysis

In Australia the waste tyres were either:

- Used in landfill – banned now in most countries because of environmental and toxic pollution
- Burned in furnaces as fuel – banned in most countries for the same reasons

Currently, Australia produces 250,000 tonnes of waste tyres per year. These tyres, up until recently were exported to China. The Chinese government has now imposed an oil levy on importers making the process much less viable economically.

Information sourced from Exemplar Fund states that a plant producing 3300 tyres per day over a 12-month period, would produce the following:

- Approximately 45% of process – bunker grade oil
- Approximately 30% of process – carbon black
- 15% of process – recyclable steel
- Approximately 10% Hydrocarbon and other gasses

Figures to our knowledge have not been tested and this company is looking for investors. Bunker oil is used in ships or may be further refined for other petroleum products. Bunker oil is in short supply in Australia. Carbon black is eagerly sought after in rubber manufacturing and also bitumen manufacturing.

According to Exemplar Fund, at current prices:

- a plant recycling 3,300 tyres per day would produce an approximate net income of \$5,000,000 p.a.
- to run a plant at 10,000 tyres per day would see this figure climb to about \$16,000,000 to \$20,000,000 p.a