

Tammi Rose, Chief Executive Officer Yarra Ranges Council PO Box 105, Lilydale VIC 3140

1 February, 2020

Dear Ms Rose.

Public Submission: <u>Proposal to grant lease to Upwey Mens Shed Inc for use of 56</u> <u>Griffiths Road, Upwey</u>

Please accept this, my submission as per letter of invitation by Yarra Ranges Council dated 9 December, 2019 in relation to the proposed granting of lease to UMS for the above mentioned land. I wish to present and speak to my submission in person therefore please advise me as to when submissions will be heard by Council.

Opening Statement

I want to first acknowledge the good work that UMS does in the broader community and I wish them the very best in their future endeavours. I hope that UMS take the opportunity through this process to know and understand more of the neighbourhood and the street they're seeking to be a part of. This process provides an opportunity for UMS and Council to hear about those that live here, who know it intimately and call it home. We are raising and schooling children here and have bought into this highly desirable and sought after residential neighbourhood in good faith with the knowledge that it is reflective of the family demographic complimentary to our own and provides a safe environment for our children. It has street scape and open space for all to enjoy and we wish for it to remain that way; enhanced, supported and protected by its locally elected representative and Council.

Community expectation is that Council would not permit any possibility of a development favouring a single sex, a minority demographic with aspirations of a dedicated club house based on outdated thinking and out of step with contemporary views of shared public resources. This is an opportunity to hear from those who live in genuine community, who are leaders and volunteers at local sporting clubs, patrons of Upwey businesses and participants of Upwey events and who share the same values and daily lived experiences - many who have invested substantially in the fabric of their neighbourhood.

I and others have UMS and Yarra Ranges Council to thank for setting this proposal in motion as it has strengthened our local community, our neighbourhood as well as family and friendship bonds. These relationships and bonds have been further galvanised over recent months, enabling leaders and supporters to shine through and who together will fiercely protect their slice of heaven.

I want to also acknowledge Council Officers Craig Sutherland and Steve Jones for their patience and diligence over a number of months in responding to my enquiries. They both have demonstrated trust and have sought to empower me as a resident who has an equal voice in our community.

I wish to take this opportunity to place on the public record (if it isn't already), my disappointment in Cr Cliff for his lack of willingness over many months leading up to this submission process to engage with and represent my interests as a constituent of Streeton Ward. My disappointment in Cr Cliff is echoed and shared by many within my neighbourhood including those that have not for their own reasons, taken the opportunity to have their voices heard publicly on this proposal. Therefore when you hear my words, they are the thoughts, frustrations, concerns, angst and disappointment of many; the old, the young, the vulnerable, boys and girls, women as well as men in my neighbourhood. We all stand in defence of Respect, Transparency, Fairness, Equal Representation and Reason.

Cr Cliff should however be commended on his sustained enthusiasm and support of UMS. Unfortunately it is this enthusiasm that I and others believe has and continues to blind him to diverging views and opinions of others of which the office he holds compels him to represent and to treat his constituents fairly and equitably. Cr Cliff is not above reproach and I am personally holding him accountable for these failings.

Cr Cliff has been complicit in creating an impression well prior to this submission process that 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey will be the new location of UMS. Cr Cliff has worked in concert with UMS to perpetuate this view amongst the broader community without regard to or consideration of Griffiths Road residents and without regard to due process.

The fruits of Cr Cliff's campaign of support for a new location for UMS to be located at 56 Griffiths Rd, culminated in a State Government funding announcement at the site. An announcement that Griffiths Road and Riley Road residents were not informed of or afforded the opportunity to attend. An announcement that could have taken place at UMS' current location (I'll speak to that later) and leveraged off a significant political figure in James Merlino whose attendance at the site communicated full support for it as a new location for UMS.

What an insult, what an injustice, what a complete lack of transparency and where was Yarra Ranges Council in this? Their silence without rebuke was to accept such behaviour and support it. Council was only spurred into tempering public impressions and language created by this announcement after I challenged Council as to the fairness of the process to enable the concerns and frustrations of local residents to be heard publicly. (See Appendix 1 – PART A Letter to council by Darren Walker and PART B Ferntree Gully Belgrave Mail Newspaper Article December 2019).

Council sought to be "seen" to be upholding the democratic processes and was at pains at every opportunity to distance itself from the public impression created by this announcement. It appears that Council have a Councillor acting autonomously and without sufficient oversight. As a result Griffiths Road and Riley Road have been placed at considerable disadvantage leading into this formal process, blindsided by the very person who is meant to represent us, be available and to uphold Council's values of trust and empowerment.

This is the back story. This is the uncomfortable truth. This is the angst that Yarra Ranges Council and Cr.Cliff have inflicted on us residents. It is the truth that my request to Tammi Rose to intervene and cease this submission process prior to its commencing, fell on deaf ears. The proposal in

question which the public submission process will consider is built on these facts and a lack of evidence (despite repeated requests by myself & others) of any analysis to support Council's claim that 56 Griffiths Rd is the best option as a location for UMS' new location. Council has demonstrated a lack of transparency, oversight and most of all a **lack of respect for my community**.

The conduct of Cr.Cliff in particular has and will continue to bring into question the degree of partiality, bias and nepotism that may purvey our locally elected representatives. If Council is to learn anything as a result of this process (rather pre-process) it is that there is clearly insufficient understanding and adherence to rules of conduct and legal obligations by some of its representatives and a lack of clear guidance for prospective lessee's as to appropriate conduct, inclusiveness, transparency and respect for communities prior to formal submission / consultation process.

Lastly before I move on to the key points of my submission and objection, what of the timing of this process? Council has shown a complete disconnect and lack of awareness of the Griffiths Road and Riley Road neighbourhoods and the significant interest of Upwey South Primary School (USPS) with regard to this proposal.

The scheduling of the submission period has significantly disadvantaged the community's ability to engage and respond adequately as the time period is such where residents are less likely to consider it properly and distracted with holiday plans. Similarly USPS has had insufficient time to properly present this proposal before school council and to garnish the thoughts and opinions of the broader school community and especially those that reside outside the immediate Griffiths and Riley Road neighbourhood. Council so **graciously** extended the public submission period beyond the normal 28 days to between December 10 and February 2, supposedly considering the holiday period.

Why didn't Council run this period earlier so it would not coincide with this time of the year. We are well aware that the workings behind the scenes between Council and UMS regarding a new location have been running since early 2019. The only reasonable conclusion is that the powers to be wanted the State Government Funding announcement at 56 Griffiths Road to occur prior to the formal public submission period so as to seek an unfair advantage over other vested parties and to create the impression that it was a done deal; supported by significant community leaders. I submit this is another example of placing Griffiths Road and Riley Road residents second to the want's and agenda of Cr.Cliff and UMS.

I note that the advertisement relating to this proposal that was circulated in local newspapers (See Appendix 2 - Copy of advertisement provided as part of this submission) is written in a manner that says Council "intends on entering into a lease" rather than a lease is being considered / proposed (with reference to the public submission process). Council therefore has also been complicit in perpetuating this pre-determined position amongst the broader community that it's a done deal. The advertisement is at odds with subsequent advertisement and messages which appear on council's website appropriately and importantly using the word 'Proposed'.

Key points of concern

My key concerns to support my position that Yarra Ranges Council should not grant a lease to UMS Inc for the use of 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey can be summarised in 5 short points:

- A. Child Safety
- B. Inappropriate Location
- C. Parking Issues
- D. Amenity
- E. Zoning Prohibition

A detailed examination of each point follows.

A. Child Safety

There are a high proportion of families with pre-school and school aged children who reside in both Griffiths & Riley Rd. The close proximity of education and daycare facilities makes these roads and the surrounding residential neighborhood a highly sought after place to raise a family. Visiting Griffiths Rd at school start and finish times gives one a clear understanding of the neighborhood rhythm, people movement and interactions with the streetscape. Griffiths Rd, Riley Rd and all the way through to Morris Rd is more a meeting place at these times with parents and carers milling about chatting and kids coming and going. My concerns are that an increase in vehicle visitation and movement in an already congested area where there are high concentrations of children exacerbates congestion and increases safety risk. Additional traffic movement associated with the use of 56 Griffiths Rd by UMS based on their expected visitor numbers creates unnecessary traffic and increases safety risk to children in particular.

As 56 Griffiths Rd shares a common boundary with USPS, children use the adjacent Riley Road entry point to access the USPS grounds. Not all children who attend USPS do so accompanied by a parent or carer in particular those of suitable age and who reside close to the school and in short walking, bicycle or scooter distance. Many children make their way to USPS via public pathways passing by 56 Griffiths Rd. Outside of school hours and during school holidays; many children who reside in Griffiths and Riley Roads utilize USPS grounds for recreation during these times. Children of appropriate age often make their way independently to the USPS grounds.

UMS's proposed use of 56 Griffiths Rd includes the gathering of large groups of men (approx ~20 at any one time) and that not all of their members are from the local area. UMS representatives have confirmed verbally that they feel it is inappropriate to vet their members (current or new) past histories and to require them to have Working with Children Checks. This position puts their membership base ahead of what would reasonably be required where contact direct or inadvertent with children is possible. UMS have demonstrated that they are NOT appropriately equipped and considerate of child safety issues in the context of their desire to lease 56 Griffiths Rd.

The safety, welfare and protection of children are of paramount importance to families who reside in the Griffiths Rd community which is inclusive of USPS. The proposed use of 56 Griffiths Rd by UMS and the gathering of large groups of men with undisclosed histories place our children at unknown risk. Individuals with ulterior motives may be attracted to join the organization by virtue of UMS proposing to operate in close proximity to USPS with ease of access to contact with children.

It is incumbent upon Council to ensure where it is reasonably able to do so to protect children and mitigate the risks where it is within their power to do so. The congregation of large groups of men at the 56 Griffiths Rd site and in particular outdoor gatherings may be cause for others within our community to feel uncomfortable and modify their behavior and practices to avoid the area or vicinity. This could have adverse impacts on parents, carers, children and the community vibe.

B. Inappropriate Location

Council have told the community that 56 Griffiths Road is the 'best option' with regard to location. No less than Mayor Cr. Higgins is perpetuating this line as evidenced by Council's own website. This position is baseless and has not been substantiated by Council despite numerous requests from myself and others. To this day Council have not been able to provide any evidence or analysis to support this position other than to rule out the "netball court precinct at Eloera Street at Upwey South Recreation Reserve as well as the carpark precinct directly adjacent to the Upwey Main Street shopping strip" citing "longer term strategic needs for those spaces".

How 56 Griffiths Road was identified and selected is not entirely clear although Cr.Cliff informed my wife and others at a Upwey South community meeting in July of 2019 that, and I quote "I've found the perfect site [56 Griffiths Road] for the Men's Shed". So it seems we have Cr.Cliff to thank for identifying 56 Griffiths Road. What is clear is that the only criterion applied was land vacancy and the only interests being considered were those of UMS. This failure of due diligence, process and transparency has led to 56 Griffiths Rd being labelled as the best option. At no stage were other essential criteria and measures applied or considered. Criteria and measures including:

1. Appropriateness

Is it appropriate for UMS to be cited in a residential street given the intended use of the site

2. Resident & Community Sentiment

Would the locals be happy about a Men's club being established in their residential street? This public consultation process will definitely answer that question.

3. Zoning

Does the current zoning of the land support the intended use of the site and not just the construction of a large rural shed? Refer to Section E: Zoning Prohibition.

4. Amenity

Would the intended construction be consistent with established existing dwellings and in keeping with the character of the street and neighbourhood. You don't need to be too intelligent to form the view when visiting Griffiths Rd that a large rural farm shed cited on a prominent corner location would be somewhat offensive and at odds with existing dwellings and character.

5. Traffic

What are the impacts on traffic and parking availability that a club with a large membership base would create?

While formal planning processes generally consider these things, there is a reasonable expectation by the community that Council would consider these basic evaluation metrics. It is not normal for Council to facilitate (in the case of Cr.Cliff 'championing') a Men's club to be cited in a residential street adjoining a primary school. Council may have perhaps done the absolute bare minimum in satisfying their legislative obligations in arriving at this point, but in doing so have failed the community and created significant angst where it could have been avoided.

UMS is currently located conveniently and appropriately within the heart of the township, a short and accessible stroll for even the most frail or disabled member to shops, trains, taxis, doctors, support services and even two pubs! The current location provides access for all and sundry including those men within our community less fortunate and of limited transport and financial means.

So what is the imperative for UMS to find a new location? What is so wrong with their current location? What aren't they able to do now that they wish to do in the future? Are they anticipating a significant increase in member numbers and if so what would be the implications to 56 Griffiths Rd if UMS are granted ten year tenure over the site?

What are the disadvantages to UMS in relocating to 56 Griffiths Road? Answer - it's the location itself! A location that in comparison to UMS' current location:

- diminishes fluid collaboration and interaction with other community groups
- diminished convenient access for their members to complimentary services and facilities
- diminishes convenient public transport links for members and creates/promotes vehicle only access
- diminishes curb side advertising and foot traffic
- diminishes opportunities to draw awareness to their group
- places the burden of operating their own site and facility solely on their membership

I cannot identify any benefits in UMS moving to 56 Griffiths Road and I challenge Council, Cr.Cliff and UMS to do so. Council's reason for facilitating UMS' move away from their current location is so we are told based on future strategic need of the community hub area. Therefore what is the future for other community groups operating from that location? Will they be encouraged into residential street locations also?

The community expects Council to bring people together, to share resources, to collaborate and facilitate viable long term, sustainable solutions. Council must do better to facilitate this rather than seek the easy option so as to achieve its organisational strategic aims which clearly are at odds with what is good for Upwey, what's good for community groups and what Upwey residents want.

C. Parking Issues

As previously mentioned, there are a high proportion of families with pre-school and school aged children who reside in both Griffiths & Riley Rd. A combination of these factors sees daily vehicle, pedestrian and recreational movement of children, parents and carers throughout the neighbourhood in particular in the vicinity of 56 Griffiths Rd with concentrations of movement occurring around school drop off and pick up times.

Council will soon embark on significant improvements to Riley Road from Griffiths Road to Morris Rd. According to Council engineers, the improvements to Riley Road will result in changes and a reduction of parking along Griffiths Road at times during the day which will place greater pressure on parking availability for local residents and their visitors as well as for the USPC community, their visitors including parents and carers dropping off and picking up children.

Any additional parking demands associated with use of 56 Griffiths Rd by UMS will compound parking issues. UMS have sought to reach an In Principal agreement with USPS in relation to utilising parking at the historic homestead site. This is an admission by UMS that parking would be an issue and that 56 Griffiths Rd once developed would not provide sufficient parking for visitors / members.

Council have not sought to understand and quantify vehicle movements along Griffiths and Riley Roads, to ascertain traffic impact that may be reasonably associated with the anticipated use of the site by UMS. If 56 Griffiths Road cannot support adequate parking then that says volumes as to the inappropriateness of the site for use by UMS.

D. Amenity

UMS's proposed development of the site includes the construction of a 20mtr long, 12mtr wide, 5mtr high rural farm shed. A structure of this type and size is at complete odds with the predominate residential dwelling type that exists in Griffiths Rd. It's as if the character of the streetscape must yield to the stereotype building design symbolic of a Men's Shed. It's as if men are in capable of doing men's business in anything other than a steel shed.

According to Council, UMS have undertaken their own investigations in relation to the zoning of the land as to whether it permits a large shed structure to be constructed. UMS are of the opinion that apparently it does although obviously this has not been tested at a planning level. Due to the prominent corner location of 56 Griffiths Rd, a large shed will be imposing to say the least and diminish the character of the surrounding residential landscape.

Why a farm shed? Well because it's cheap, built for function and not style and not with capital improvement in mind and certainly with no regard as to the impacts on the value of properties (our homes our family assets) immediately adjacent, opposite and along Griffiths and Riley Roads.

E. Zoning Prohibition

The site is currently zoned Public Park and Recreation Zone. According to 36.02-1, 'Section 3 – Prohibited' of the Victoria Planning Provisions (VPP), uses that are prohibited for land that is zoned as a Public Park and Recreation Zone, include Industry and Warehouse.

The definition of Industry according to the VPP is contained in Appendix 3.

The definition of Warehouse according to the VPP is contained in Appendix 3

Presumably given the scale and size of UMS' proposed shed at 56 Griffiths Road, and based on the activities UMS propose to undertake on the land should they be granted use of the land are prohibited under the VPP.

Council have advised that the following activities are typically associated with a Men's Shed. "Typical activities conducted within a men's shed include woodworking craft projects (think bird feeders, wooden toys, perhaps even cubby houses etc.), small scale metal work, furniture repair etc. often undertaken to directly assist other community groups, such as constructing bird boxes for environmental groups bicycle repair/refurbishment for distribution to those in need."

I'm not aware of any proposal by Council to re-zone the land to enable the full intended range of activities by UMS to legitimately occur in accordance with the VPP. If Council is intending to have 56 Griffiths Road re-zoned to accommodate UMS intended use of the land or the granting of a lease to UMS will trigger a necessity to change the Zoning of the land then Council must be disclosed any intent immediately.

Closing Statement

I wish to propose that Council partner with the local community (Griffiths & Riley Rds residents) to invest in and enhance 56 Griffiths Road to realise its full potential as a public park and recreation to which it is currently zoned. I envisage a place with seating a safe space off the street and outside of USPS grounds where parents and carers (woman in particular) can gather while awaiting children pick-up.

The residents of Griffiths Rd have a right to expect that Council will preserve the character, amenity and harmony of our family oriented neighbourhood and protect our interests by prudent planning and appropriate development. Griffiths Road and Riley Roads are residential streets where families reside, where USPS is at the heart of our neighbourhood and our daily rhythm. 56 Griffiths is and should remain a space for all and not for a select few.

I look forward to the opportunity to present my submission in person.

Yours sincerely



Appendix 1

PART A - Correspondence with council regarding concerns about the impending notification of the submission process and a call to abandon the process.

From:

Sent: Sunday, 8 December 2019 11:16 PM **To:** CustomerLiaison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Subject: URGENT LETTER FOR TAMMI ROSE | RE: 6472310 - Mens Shed Upwey - Griffiths Street - Resident complaint - Cr

Higgins, Cr Cliff, James Merlino MP

Importance: High

Hello again Tammi,

Further to this matter, you'll be aware the Public Notice period in relation to the Possible Lease of 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey to Upwey Men's Shed Inc. (UMS) is scheduled to commence on 10 Dec (this Tuesday). As there are outstanding questions relating to the process which sees 56 Griffiths Rd identified by Council as suitable public land available for possible lease to UMS, I'm seeking your direct intervention in this matter and for Council to cease with the Public Notice on the following grounds:

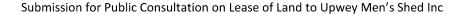
- Council has failed to provide a response to any of my initial questions (Council ref: 6156961) and within the specified 15 business day timeframe (130 business days have now passed)
- Council is currently 'investigating' (Council ref: 6472310) matters that may have a bearing on the Public Notice
- Council has failed to engaged with Griffiths Rd residents but has exclusively engaged with UMS with regard to the availability of 56 Griffiths Rd for possible leasing
- Council has not demonstrated adherence to process (if any)
- Cr Cliff has failed to provide a response to any of my concerns, failed to communicate at all and failed to represent me or other residents

As a resident of Griffiths Rd and as a rate payer I have been denied a voice despite my diligence in raising this matter in good time and with fairness. I've been more than patient and done what is reasonably expected of me and that simply has not been reciprocated by Council or Cr Cliff. Therefore Council as well as Cr Cliff have been negligent in their duties and as a result has breached my trust and that of other residents who I speak on behalf of.

Furthermore Cr Cliff's continued silence and failure to reach out to me despite providing ample opportunity and time to do so says volumes and is at the heart of my frustration, disappointment and concern. Cr Cliff's overt and continued engagement with UMS while ignoring and excluding the broader community (those other than Men from UMS) is reprehensible and which he will be held to account. I cannot see evidence of Cr Cliff impartially exercising his responsibilities in the interest in the local community (us Griffiths Rd residents) therefore I request you to raise this important matter with Council's Director Corporate Services, Principal Conduct Officer.

As the responsible officer I implore you to give this matter your utmost and immediate attention.

Kind Regards,



From: Customer Liaison [mailto:CustomerLiaison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au]

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:43 PM

To:

Subject: 6472310 - Mens Shed Upwey - Griffiths Street - Resident complaint - Cr Higgins, Cr Cliff, James Merlino MP

Our reference: 6472310

Contact: Customer Liaison

Telephone: 9294 6742

Dear Mr Walker.

On behalf of our CEO, Tammi Rose, thank you for your correspondence dated 4 December, 2019 regarding regarding the Men's Shed Upwey proposal.

Our reference number for your email is: 6472310

As per the previous email sent to you today from my colleague Kerry Trengove, we have forwarded your concerns to Craig Sutherland for investigation, and will be in contact again once a more detailed response is available. These investigations can take some time to complete, however we do aim to provide an update within 15 working days.

Throughout this process we will also provide updates to Tammi Rose to ensure she is kept informed.

Thank you again for taking the time to raise your concerns with us. We will work through your complaint and will contact you again shortly.

Thank you for contacting CEO Tammi Rose, she appreciates all feedback from the community as part of her commitment to the Yarra Ranges Shire.

Please do not hesitate to contact us at CustomerLiaison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au or on our direct line 9294 6742, if we can provide any further information or assistance in the meantime.

Kind Regards,



Elisha Hamilton

Customer Liaison Officer

03 9294 6742

customerliaison@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

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#RESPOND 5882709 #ECMBODY From:

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 10:05 AM

To: mail

Subject: ATTENTION | Tammi Rose | FW: RESIDENTS DENIED A SAY ON PROPOSED SITE OF UPWEY MENS SHED IN THEIR

STREET | Advanced Notice - Council Public Notice re: 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey

Att: Tammi Rose

Chief Executive Officer - Yarra Ranges Council

Hi Tammi, FYI please see below and attached.

I'm seeking answers (indeed a response) from Council in relation to my previously tabled questions regarding the proposed use of 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey by Upwey Mens Shed.

Kind Regards,

From: Darren Walker

Sent: Wednesday, 4 December 2019 12:19 AM **To:** C.Sutherland@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Cc: <u>crrichardhiggins@yarraranges.vic.gov.au</u>; <u>crnoelcliff@yarraranges.vic.gov.au</u>; <u>james.merlino@parliament.vic.gov.au</u>; <u>info@upweymensshed.org.au</u>; <u>editor@mailnewsgroup.com.au</u>

Subject: RE: RESIDENTS DENIED A SAY ON PROPOSED SITE OF UPWEY MENS SHED IN THEIR STREET | Advanced Notice - Council Public Notice re: 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey

Hi Craig,

Thankyou kindly for the 'heads up' as to the upcoming Public Notice relating to the possible Lease of 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey to Upwey Mens Shed Inc (UMS). You'll notice I've adjusted the email subject header to more accurately reflect what has not occurred and the lack of transparency regarding this matter. This is mainly for the benefit of those cc'd into this email.

You may be aware that I first made contact with Council on 28 July and then again on 17 August this year (see attached) in relation to this matter of which I have received no subsequent responses to my questions and concerns. Not from Council nor Cr Cliff. Not a phone call, nothing. Clearly I've been ignored and therefore the voices of other Griffiths Rd residents as well (Men, Woman & Children).

During that time it now appears that UMS and Council have been firming up plans to utilise 56 Griffiths Rd culminating in the upcoming Public Notice you've advised of. I note that Cr Cliff, James Merlino and UMS representatives were at 56 Griffiths Rd last Friday afternoon for a photo opportunity (no local residents invited of course) and according to Mr Merlino's social media afterwards he says and I quote "I look forward to watching its construction into the future". So please forgive me for being cynical when your letter speaks of a 'possible Lease' (implying there's an actual process to work through and residents will get a fair hearing) when clearly in the eyes of the powers to be, it's a feta accompli. This coupled with UMS' building plans (I've seen

them) imply that planning approval is also a *feta accompli* to use the site and construct a shed which I might add is completely out of character in our RESIDENTIAL STREET). How are we to believe this is not a done deal when an \$80k cheque is presented by James Merlino himself in the presence of Cr Cliff and UMS representatives at the 56 Griffiths Rd site and evidenced by posting to social media for the entire community to see (including us Griffiths Rd residents who to date have been denied a say).

While Council may be at step 2 in the process (the Lease process), myself and other Griffiths Rd residents are still back at step 1 trying to ascertain from Council the selection and evaluation process that has identified 56 Griffiths Rd to be Councils preferred location (according to UMS). So given that us residents are back at Step 1, I respectfully ask Council (again) to address my previous tabled questions which are:

- 1. What are Councils obligations (presumably enshrined in process) to consult with the community (in particular local residents) in relation to proposing 56 Griffiths Rd as a site available to UMS rather than the upcoming Lease process that will invite public comment
- 2. What process of evaluation has Council undertaken with respect to other suitable sites (I'm aware other sites were identified that are significantly more suitable which UMS have acknowledged themselves to myself and others)
- On what basis has Council determined that 56 Griffiths Rd is more suitable (or reasons as to preference) above other sites
- 4. How the current planning zone (Public Park & Recreation) relating to 56 Griffiths Rd facilitates the construction and use of a very large rural shed (assuming UMS' current plans for a 20 metre long, 12 metre wide and 5.3 metre high metal shed do not change)
- 5. The basis on which Council provided UMS with a letter regarding the availability of 56 Griffiths Rd for their use (to construct a shed) for the purpose of their funding application to the Vic Governments Men's Shed Program (which they've been successful in obtaining hence the photo opportunity at the site last Friday as previously mentioned). I have asked UMS for a copy of the letter but they have refused to provide it hence I and others are seeking a copy from Council unless it can demonstrate as to why it cannot be provided

I look forward to your earliest reply and would very much appreciate (so to others) the opportunity to meet with the relevant Council officer/s in person to discuss this matter in more detail.

Kind Regards.

From: Sutherland Craig [mailto:C.Sutherland@yarraranges.vic.gov.au]

Sent: Tuesday, 3 December 2019 4:50 PM

Subject: Advanced Notice - Council Public Notice re: 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey



Please find attached a letter providing you advanced notice of an up-coming Public Notice advertisement in relation to 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey.

Please note the original has been sent to you in the post.

Regards



Craig Sutherland

Coordinator Property

03 9294 6257

c.sutherland@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

PART B - Ferntree Gully Belgrave Mail Newspaper Article December 2019 Front Page feature regarding the Men's Shed with photograph taken at the 56 Griffiths Road proposed site featuring Cr Noel Cliff and James Merlino.



APPENDIX 2

Photo of advertisement relating to this proposal that was circulated in local newspapers – take note of language used in opening paragraph vs that used on webpage..

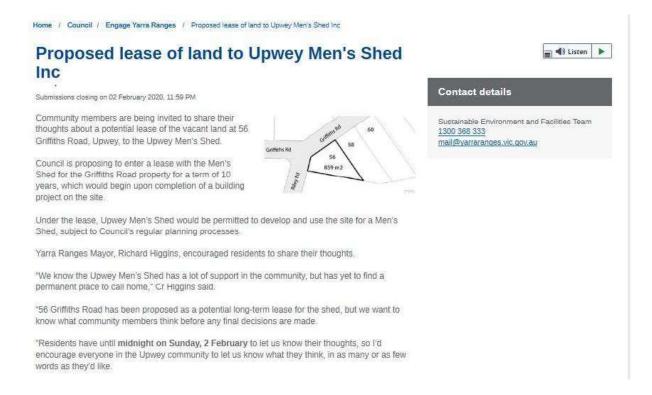




LEASE OF LAND TO UPWEY MEN'S SHED INC.

Yarra Ranges Shire Council ("Council") gives notice under section 190 of the Local Government Act 1989 ("Act") of its intention to enter into a lease with Upwey Men's Shed Inc. ("UMS"), in respect of the land defined as Res1/PS053284, located at 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey as indicated on the plan below, and contained in certificate of title volume 8596 folio 328 ("the Land").

VS Advertisement relating to this proposal currently on Council's webpage. Take note of language used in 2nd paragraph...



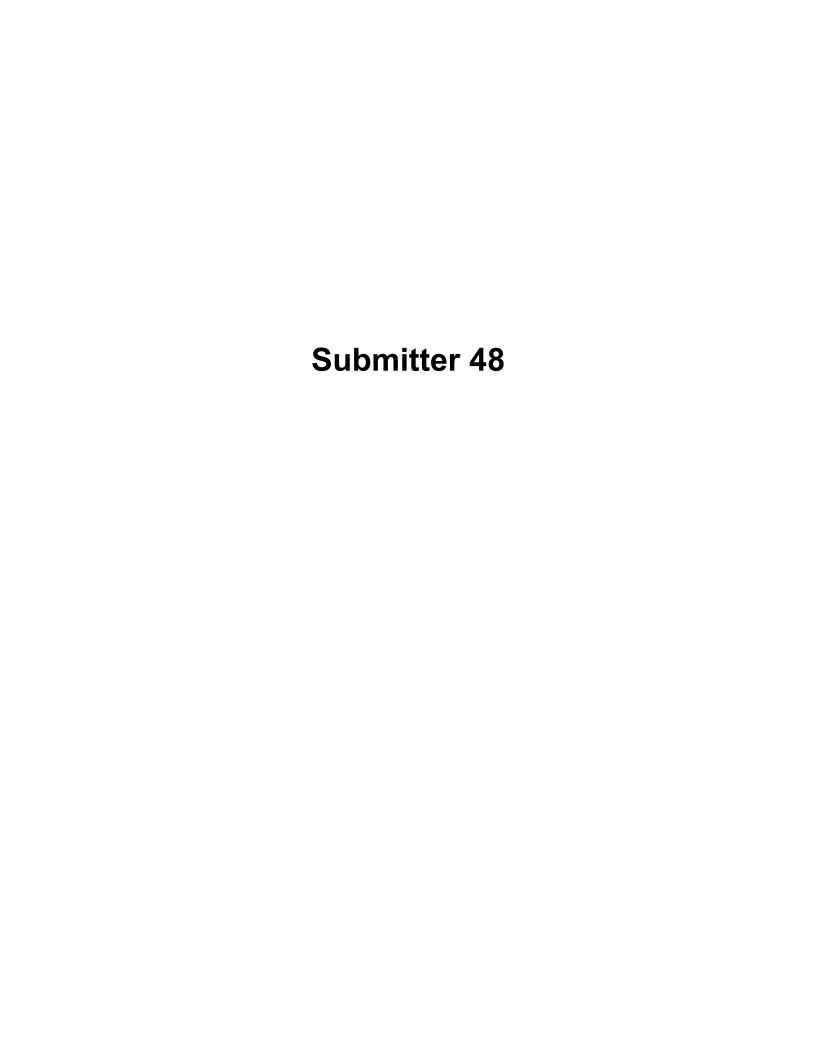
APPENDIX 3

Section 3 of the Victoria Planning Provisions contains a list of Uses that are prohibited for land that is zoned as a Public Park and Recreation Zone, including **Industry** and **Warehouse.**



VICTORIA PLANNING PROVISIONS

Land use term	Definition	Includes	Included in
Warehouse	Land used to store or display goods.	Commercial display	
	It may include the storage and	area	
	distribution of goods for wholesale and the storage and distribution of	Fuel depot	
	goods for online retail. It does not	Mail centre	
	include premises allowing in-person	Milk depot	
	retail or display of goods for retail, or allowing persons to collect goods	Store	
	that have been purchased online.		



Submission on the proposed lease of land to

Upwey Men's Shed Inc.

To Yarra Ranges Mayor, Richard Higgins

And the Yarra Ranges Council Members.

I am writing a submission in support of The Upwey Men's Shed's application to lease the land at 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey to build a permanent home for The Upwey Men's Shed Inc (UMS).

My name is John Pope and I am a Member of the UMS.

I was at the initial meeting for the formation of a Men's Shed in Upwey, in 2018 and have been a member ever since.

The UMS means a lot to me as being blind, only having 10% vision, there is somewhere that I can go a couple of times a week and feel that I belong.

To me the UMS is somewhere to go and have a cup of coffee, a bickie and a chat and a laugh and feel supported by others.

There are other members who are having issues, another is blind and we have a few older members as well.

I believe 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey is an ideal location, as it has a bus stop at the front of it. This means I can travel independently on public transport to and from the UMS.

Once we get our own shed, we can start doing more activities such as woodwork, metalwork and other "hands on" activities that I am keen to participate in.

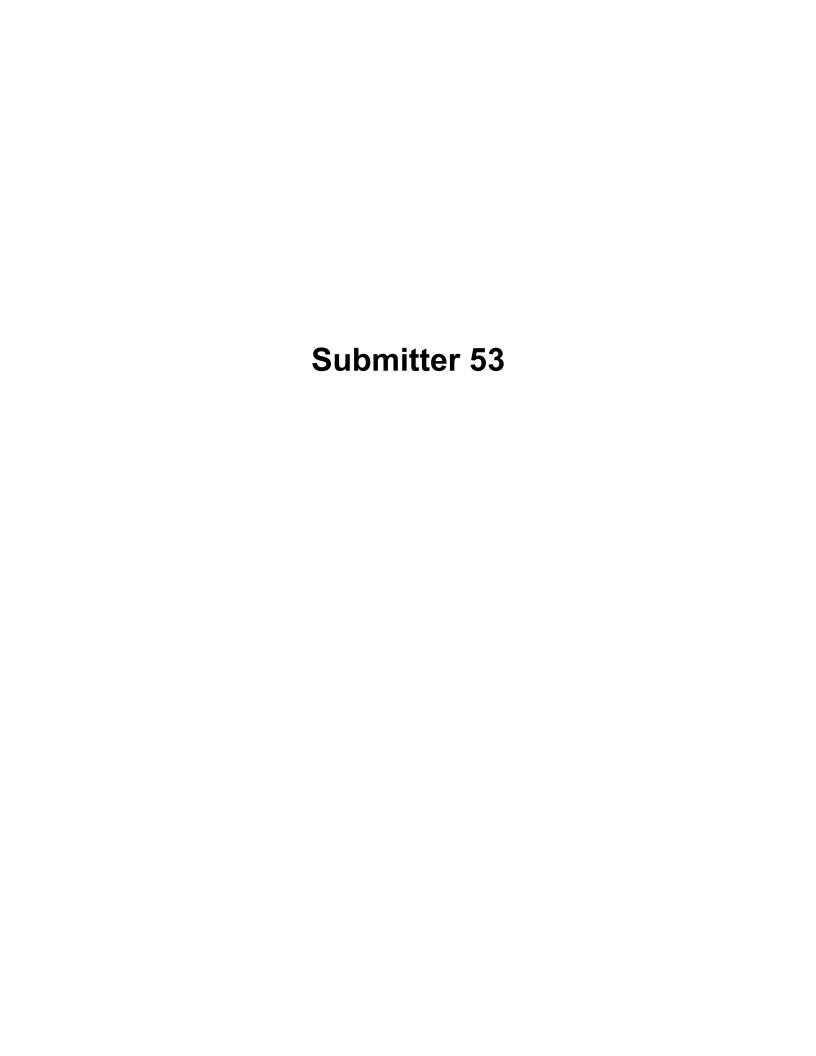
The sooner we can get our own shed going, the better that it will be for our current members and attract other new members who are currently "sitting on the fence" awaiting the outcome of this process.

The Men's Shed organization supports thousands of Men in Victoria and it is well known that it supports men of all ages and abilities and supports many men with physical and mental health issues.

Hope to see the councillors at our opening very soon.

Thanking you all in anticipation,

Yours Sincerely,



From:

Sent: Wednesday, 22 January 2020 5:23 PM

To: mai

Subject: Public Submission - The Chief Executive Officer - Proposed Lease -56 Griffiths Rd.,

Upwey.

I wish to support the "Mens Shed" proposal in 56 Griffiths Rd. Upwey. My husband had a stroke in 2018 and as a result, became very depressed. Sometime later a neighbor mentioned the "Mens Shed" proposal, and I asked if my husband could be involved as it is a great initiative.

As my husband and I are also believers in "mental health" as well as "physical health", he joined the Upwey Mens Shed last year, and I have to say the turn around in his demeanor changed dramatically because of the interaction and communication with other men. He now looks forward to going twice a week.

As my husbands 'carer' I feel it is very important that people in the Community are not isolated because of some medical issues.

My hope is the Council will continue pursuing this very worthwhile proposal, which I wholeheartedly support because I believe many men in the Community will benefit from this proposal as my husband has done.

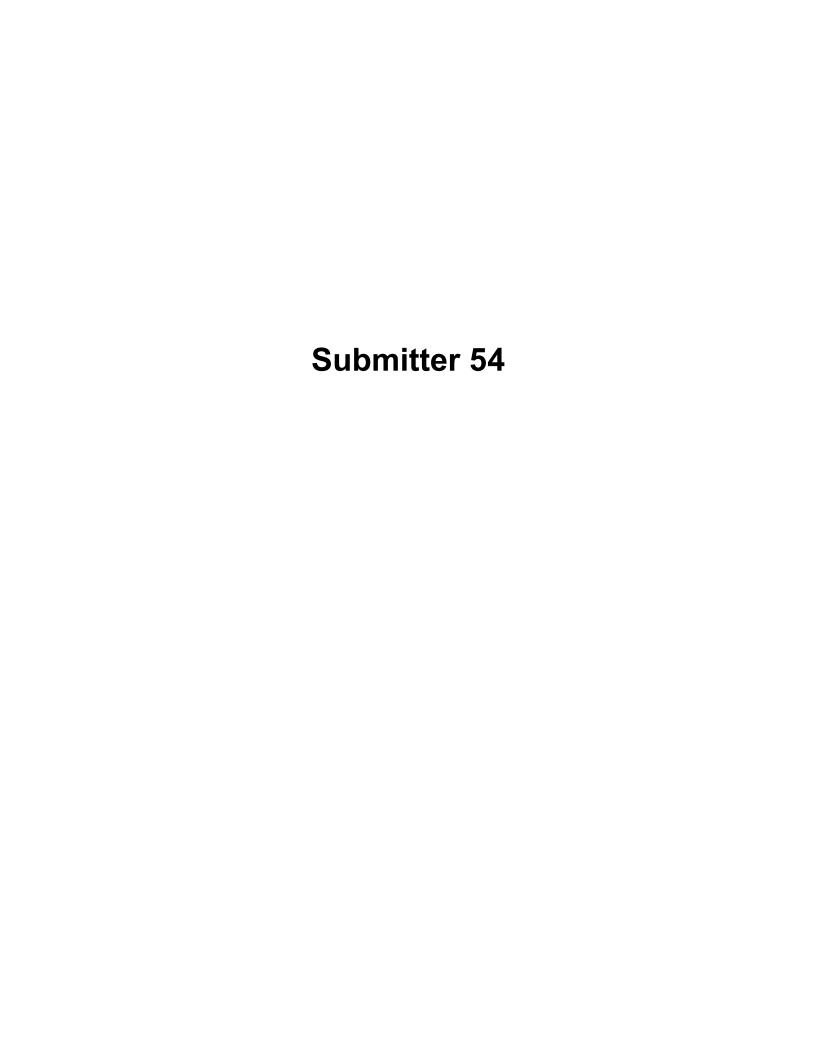
Vours sincerely,

UPWEY. 3158.

Mob.

Email -

PS. I would like ROGER BAILEY of Upwey Mens Shed to represent us at the submission.



From:

Sent: Monday, 6 January 2020 5:34 PM

To: mail

Subject: Submission in support of proposal to provide lease to Upwey Men's Shed at 56

Griffiths Rd, Upwey

Attachments: Letter o

Letter of Support HillScene Live 1907.docx; Letter of Support Upwey South Primary School 1907.docx; Letter of Support Upwey-Belgrave RSL 1907.doc; Letter of Support Upwey Tecoma Football Club 1907.pdf; Letter of Support Upwey Bowling Club 1907.docx; Letter of Support Friends of Glenfern 1907.pdf; Letter of Support Upwey Primary School 1907.pdf; Letter of Support Grassroots Market 1907.docx; Letter of Support Upwey South Tennis Club 1907.docx; Letter of Support 3MDR 1907.pdf; Letter of Support Project Upwey 1907.docx; Letter of Support Sherbrooke Foothills Historical Society 1907.docx; Letter of Support Upwey High School 1907.pdf



P.O. Box 1352 Upwey Vic 3158 ABN 69 442 422 027

Public Submission re Proposed lease to Upwey Men's Shed at 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey

Yarra Ranges Council

PO Box 105 Lilydale VIC 3140

6/1/20

We write to support Yarra Ranges Council's proposal to provide a lease to Upwey Men's Shed at 56 Griffiths Rd, Upwey.

Since launching in 2018, this group has impressed our Community in many ways:

- · Rapid membership increase
- Regular meetings
- Interaction with Community
- · Energetic and skilled Steering Committee

An Upwey Men's Shed will

- · Provide a safe friendly environment for men to share experiences
- · Give value and a sense of purpose to men's lives in retirement
- Contribute to the community through worthwhile projects and events
- Have proven health and well-being benefits, including reduction of depression
- Promote inclusion and reduce isolation
- Enable a wide range of enjoyable activities
- · Actively connect with other organizations in the Upwey Community and district

We believe the Griffiths Rd is appropriate for the Upwey Men's Shed

- . There are very few possible sites in Upwey, and this vacant piece of land is well-suited
- · Upwey Men's Shed will be considerate and quiet neighbours
- Use of the building will mostly be during the daytime for less than twenty people
- Design of the building will be appropriate so that it integrates well with surrounding properties
- Benefits to the community far outweigh any local inconvenience

UTG strongly supports this idea and therefore commends the proposal. Please find attached thirteen letters of support from local organizations to a recent funding application.

We ask that you give it your favourable consideration.

Yours sincerely

Andrew Fullagar <u>President</u> Upwey Township Group

Iriends of Gienfern Valley Bushlands Inc.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands Inc (A not for profit community group) PO Box 1283 Upwey 3158 glenfernbushlands@hotmail.com http://www.glenfernbushlands.org.au

Letter of Support

Upwey Men's Shed

The Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands write to support this community-based proposal. The Upwey Men's Shed will deliver a much-needed community facility for Upwey and retired men that live in this area. We have already observed strong support from community leaders and local men eager to participate in the Men's Shed movement.

We add our strong endorsement to the Upwey Men's Shed in its pursuit of a State Grant to help fund a building that can accommodate the Men's Shed activities. The benefits of a Men's Shed are well known across Victoria. The Shed movement enriches men's lives, by getting them reconnected with community and giving their lives a sense of purpose by working on projects that are valued by the community. The camaraderie of meeting and working together is good for the health and wellbeing for all involved.

We urge the Victorian Government to give it serious and urgent consideration.

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands

Our volunteer group, consisting of over 100 members has a focus on the Glenfern Valley Reserve. This is 40 Hectares reserve in Upwey. Just 20 years ago this reserve was a neglected remnant bushland full of rubbish and weeds. It has been transformed by our volunteer Group to provide wildlife habitat, quiet recreation and an educational resource. It is an outstanding example of what volunteers in Upwey area can accomplish.

Our achievements since 2001 include:

- We have a built a membership of over 100
- Removal of several hundred thousand woody weeds, including Pittosporum and Boneseed
- Removal of over 70 cubic metres of rubbish and 30 car bodies
- New fencing, weed control and tree planting

19.p.M.M.

- Picnic tables, seats and track signs
- Environmental Education for school groups and University students.

Yours sincerely

2 June 2019

David Moncrieff President

Friends of Glenfern Valley Bushlands

Fostering Family and Youth

(Reg. No. A0002947T) (ABN: 53 553 618 334)

> Chosen Avenue Upwey

P.O.Box 1011 Upwey Vic. 3158 Phone: (03) 9754 8127

E-Mail: utfnc@bigpond.com

Web Site: http://www.utfnc.org.au

PRESIDENT:

Craig Waters 0418 515 417

SECRETARY:

Don James 03 5968 6668 0438 000 437

PREMIERSHIPS

Under 18's 1955 1985

(Affiliated 2005) A Grade 2005,2013 B Reserves 2013

B Reserves 2013 C Grade 2010 2011 To Whom It May Concern

9 July 2019

Re: Upwey Men's Shed

The Committee and Members of the Upwey Tecoma Football Netball Club would like to offer their support to the establishment of a permanent base for the Upwey Men's Shed.

The Upwey Men's Shed will become an important part of the community with its ability to help Men with their mental health and wellness.

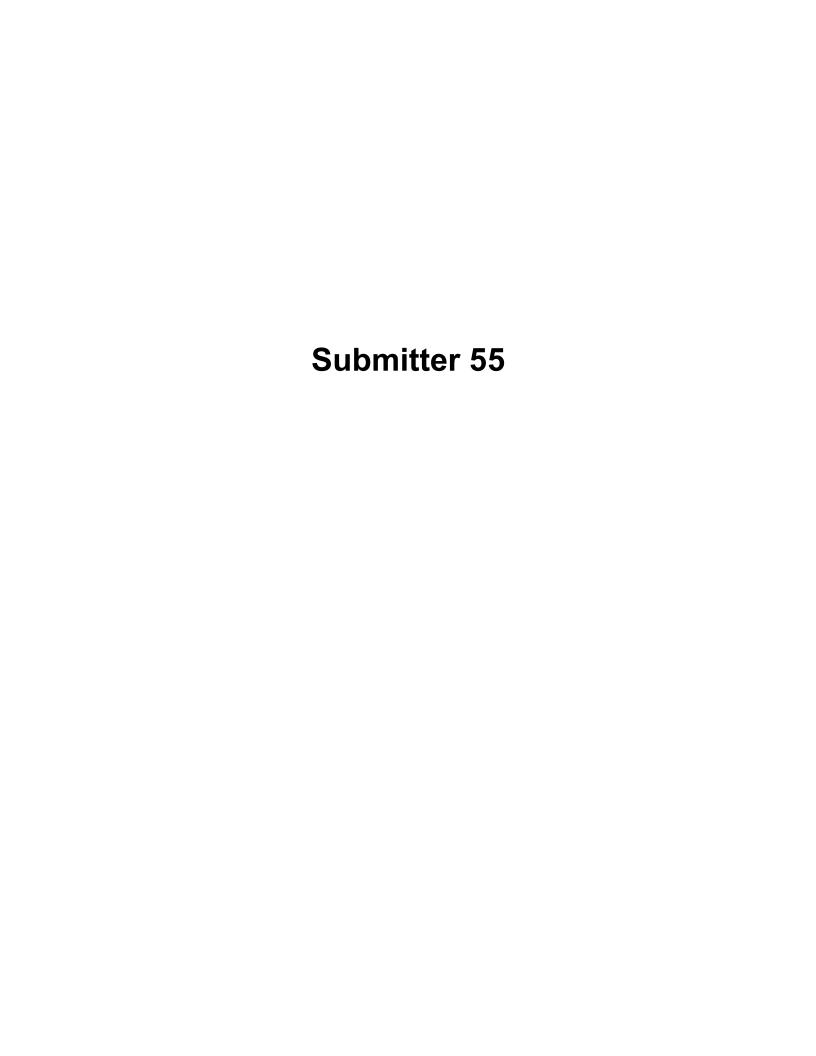
We feel the Upwey Men's Shed will, amongst other benefits:

- Provide a safe, friendly environment for men to share experiences
- Give value and a sense of purpose to men's lives in retirement
- Contribute to the community through worthwhile projects and events
- Have proven health and well-being benefits, including reduction of depression
- Promote inclusion and reduce isolation
- Enable a wide range of enjoyable activities
- Actively connect with other organizations in the Upwey Community and district

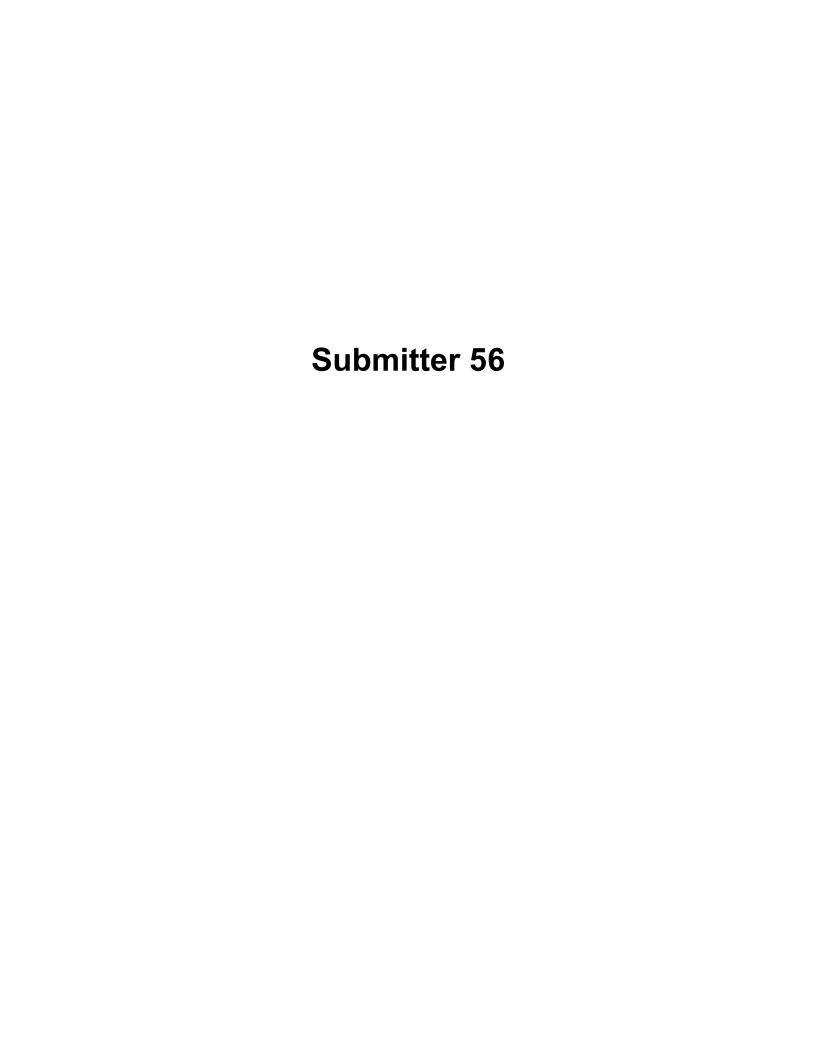
As a local volunteer organization ourselves we see the need for such an organization in the area and look forward to the positive impact the Upwey Men's Shed will have of lives of men in our local community.

Yours Sincerely

Craig Waters
President



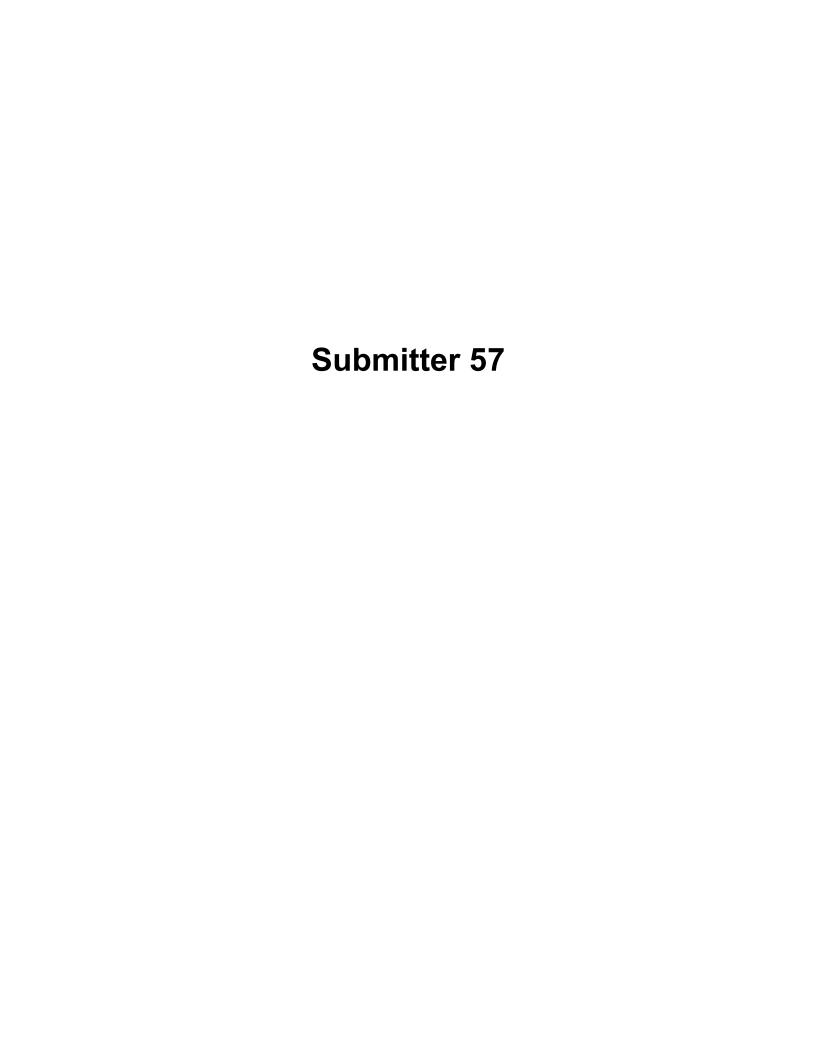
From:	
Sent:	Thursday, 19 December 2019 2:45 PM
То:	mail
Subject:	Re Men's Shed proposal Upwey
Dear Chief Executive Officer,	
RE: Men's Shed Griffiths Road,	Upwey
	tion to have this on Griffiths Road condition upon the council and Vic Roads ound the non-parking area at the intersection of Griffiths Road and Riley Road. It was
pick up and school events tryin	since the double lines disappeared (at the resurfacing) and it causes chaos at school g to see around the corner whilst driving which is kind of dangerous as people are ectly opposite the Riley Road exit.
parking) it will all work. If we de	the corner and double lines reinstated (hopefully people know that means no on't we are going to end up with men's utes, Hi-lux's etc parked around the bend uch more dangerous and difficult, especially at night.
Thanks	
Upwey 3158	
Contact details below	



From:	
Sent:	Friday, 31 January 2020 5:53 PM
To:	mail
Subject:	Upwey Men's Shed

We would welcome Upwey Men's Shed and would like to see it built on the proposed site at 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey . We often walk past the land and it is unused and should be utilised by people who will hopefully only do good things for the community . The primary school already has street access during school drop off and pick up times so we are assuming there would not be a problem with car parking for the members of the group .

Regards,
Upwey
Sent from



UPWEY 3158

Public Submission The Chief Executive Officer P.O. Box 105 LILYDALE 3140

16th December 2019

Re: PROPOSED LEASE OF LAND TO UPWEY MEN'S SHED – 56 GRIFFITHS ROAD UPWEY

I am in full support of leasing the above site in Griffiths Road for a Men's Shed facility. We have been a resident of Griffiths Road for nearly 50 years and have seen that site lay idle for that time.

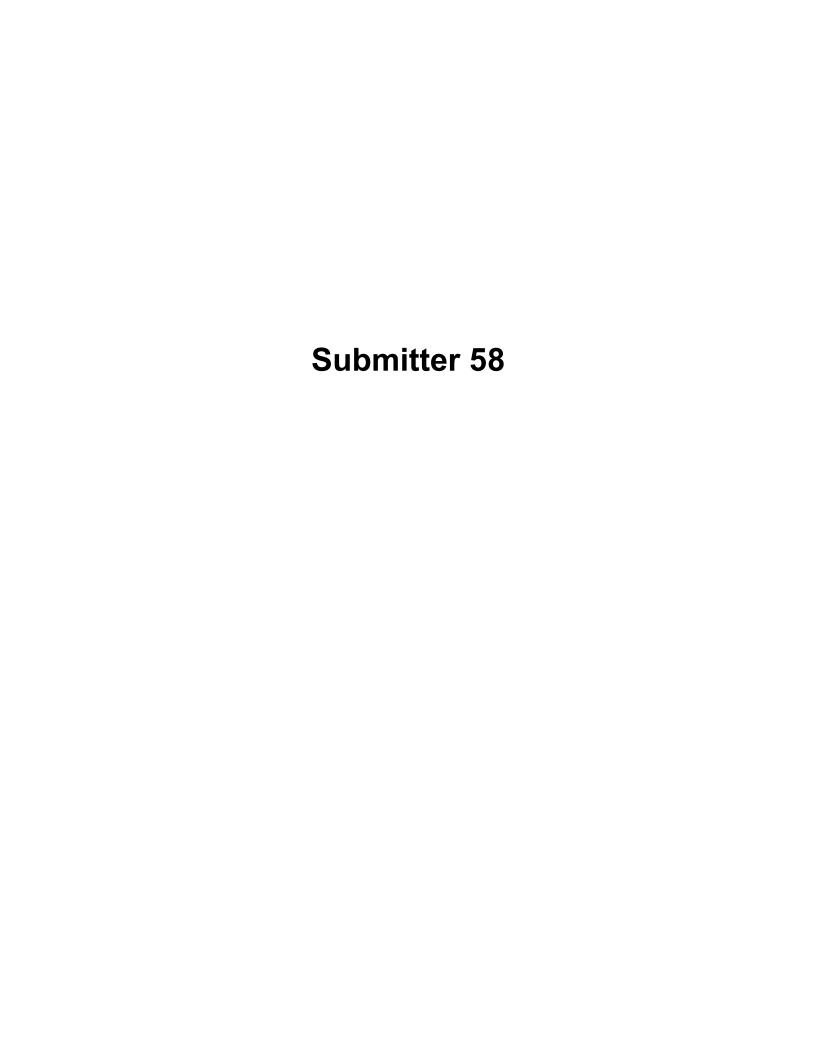
It amazes me that when something constructive is proposed for the site people all of a sudden object on the grounds it could be better used as say a children's playground when we already have two playgrounds within a couple of hundred meters of the said site.

With the results of Men's Sheds creating a venue to help improve men's mental health I think such a facility in Upwey is well overdue. Men's Sheds have in other areas contributed a lot of benefits to local communities and been an avenue, otherwise not available, for men to get together and talk and create friendships.

It would be disappointing to see such an opportunity wasted because of a few narrow minded people.

Yours sincerely





From:

Sent: Friday, 31 January 2020 11:57 PM

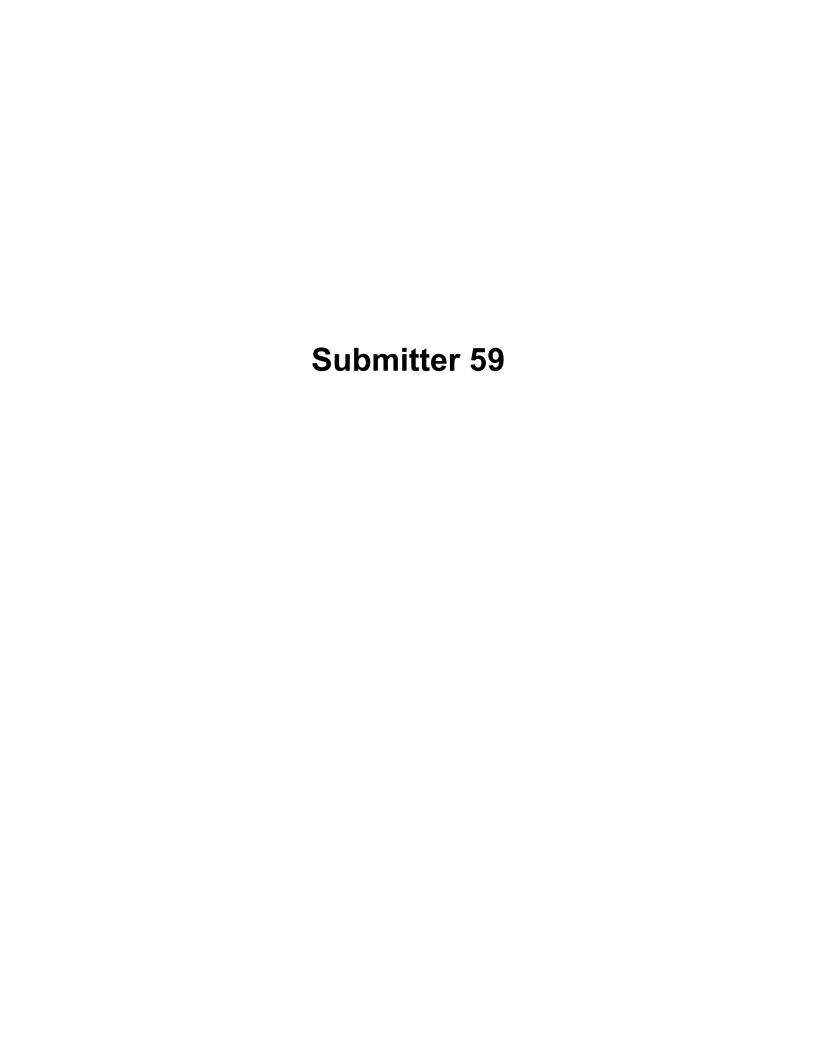
To: mail

Subject: Proposed Men's Shed - 56 Griffiths Road Upwey

I am a Griffiths Road resident and have been for many years. I have seen this site remain vacant and unused. I work in a men's shed and I know the numerous benefits of membership to these organisations, I cannot think of a better use for this site.

Kind regards

Sent from my iPad



From:

Sent: Tuesday, 28 January 2020 1:37 PM

To: mail

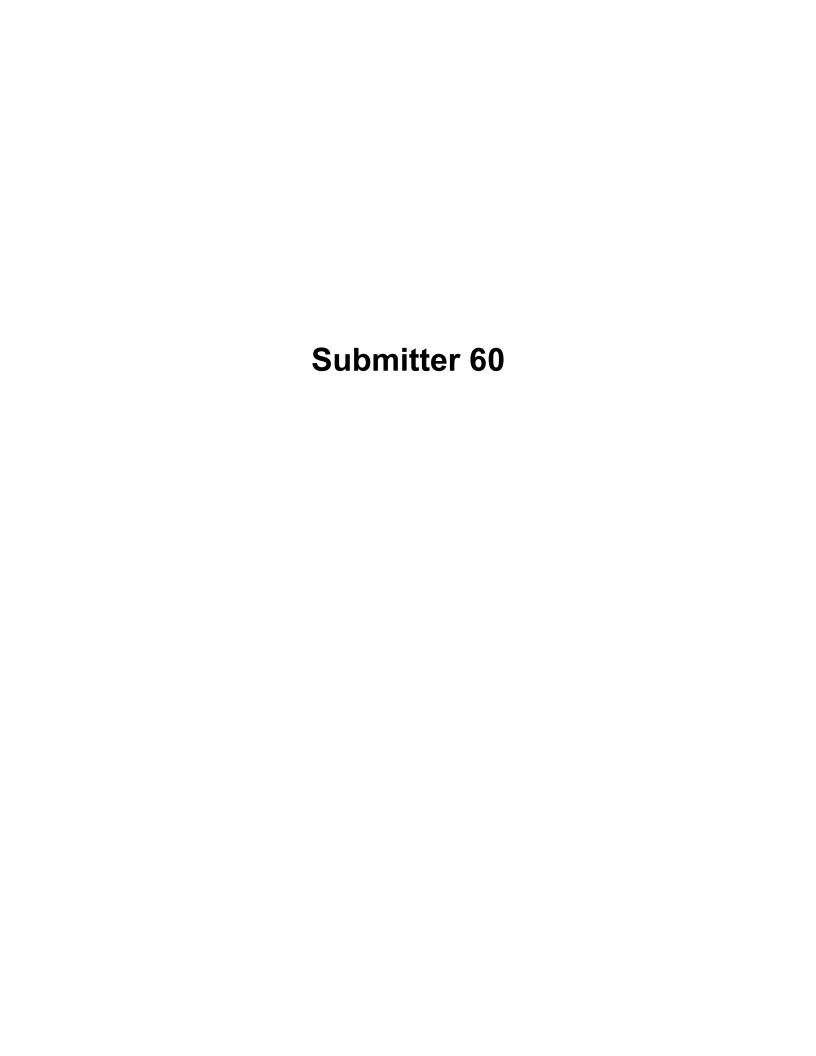
Subject: Proposed Men's Shed lease

Hi

I fully support the need for a men's shed in Upwey and providing of a lease so they can provide much needed activities which improves the health and well-being of men in this local area.

Thanks local resident

Sent from OPPO Mail



From:

Sent: Thursday, 30 January 2020 3:27 PM

To: mail

Subject: Upwey Men's Shed -Proposed Location 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey

Chief Executive Officer, Shire of Yarra Ranges (via email)

mail@yarraranges.vic.gov.au

Dear Sir/Madam,

Re: Upwey Men's Shed - Proposed Location 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey

An Upwey Mens' Shed is a GREAT IDEA, but Griffiths Rd is the WRONG PLACE.

Whilst it may take a little longer to locate the Upwey Mens' Shed in the RIGHT place, that delay is far preferable to some quick compromise that in the long term does not meet community needs and a Shed's ideal objectives.

An Upwey Mens' Shed should be central to the Townspeople and Township of Upwey, not tucked away in the backstreets at one end of Upwey.

A far better location for the Upwey Mens' Shed would be behind the Upwey shops, near the other clubs and community groups, and right in amongst the community during community events — Upwey Billy Cart Races, Grassroots Markets, Anzac Day, and so on - making it visible, accessible and available to all interested residents of Upwey, and also to those who may come to visit our Township.

The existing clubs and community groups' area could be redeveloped to a more integrated, inclusive and diverse collective, and with existing centralised parking, access to shops, transport (trains/buses) and other amenities and infrastructure, it is a far better solution.

The Upwey Mens' Shed could be part of a new and improved shared space where the community can come together and the facilities utilised to greater advantage.

The Upwey Mens' Shed should be:

- a. Central, as close to the centre of our community as possible.
- b. Accessible, it should be equally accessible by all.
- c. Visible, to promote and sustain its membership (in perpetuity).

For all of the above reasons, the Proposed Site at 56 Griffiths Rd is not appropriate, furthermore:

Zoning

The proposed Land parcel at 56 Griffiths Rd is Zoned as *Parks & Recreation*, and all surrounding area is *Residential*. Mens' Sheds typically incorporate wood-working and other construction type activities. It is not appropriate to establish what would reasonably be categorised as a 'light industrial' facility in that location.

The site at 56 Griffiths Rd would be better developed for the local residents to enjoy, for example, with a couple of Electric BBQs, a few park benches and a modest shelter. A far better solution for the local residents – quiet community enjoyment with facilities that bring the local community together – not a purpose-built facility just for Men.

Noise!

In a residential area, normal quiet enjoyment should not be destroyed by the noises of industrial machinery like drop saws, planers and dust extractors. A Mens' Shed is expected to produce all manner of noise-making, and it is a

reasonable expectation that a Mens' Shed making noise will be more than just occasional. It is unreasonable and unfair that local residents should have to give up their quiet enjoyment of their peaceful 'hills lifestyle'.

Traffic and Parking

Griffiths Rd already suffers from increased traffic (and noise) from the Upwey South Primary School, and from the semi-regular (noisy) motorcycles pulling in and out of what appears to be a local/backyard repair/service/modification business operating nearby (Riley Rd?). There are already therefore examples of where locals' peace and quiet enjoyment is being compromised. A Mens' Shed will only further exacerbate this.

I read somewhere that the Upwey Mens' Shed already has 80 members. Some members may be local (to Griffiths Rd), but what about everybody else....? If the Shed is built in Griffiths Rd, how are the members going to get there? Will they drive their cars? Where are they going to park?

Griffiths Rd is already often congested due to the Upwey South Primary School (drop off and pick up times especially, school events, and so on) so school traffic is already significant. As residents we often have to deal with a crowded street. It is not unusual that we have difficulty getting into and out of our driveway due to vehicles parked opposite the driveway, and sometimes cars are parked partially or even completely across our driveway (parked and abandoned!).

Bus 699 travels down Griffiths Rd and the bus stop is right out front of 56 Griffiths Rd. Although it might prove useful to UMS members (if built) this bus is not a regular service. More importantly it would serve as even more competition for parking and access, and right where the UMS membership would need it.

Griffiths Rd is already a narrow street. In early 2003 I recall there was a proposal to limit parking to one side of the street due to ... bus access, or was it Fire Brigade access? Back then there was already concern about parking and congestion in Griffiths Rd. More vehicles for an Upwey Mens' Shed would only add to that congestion.

10 year lease?

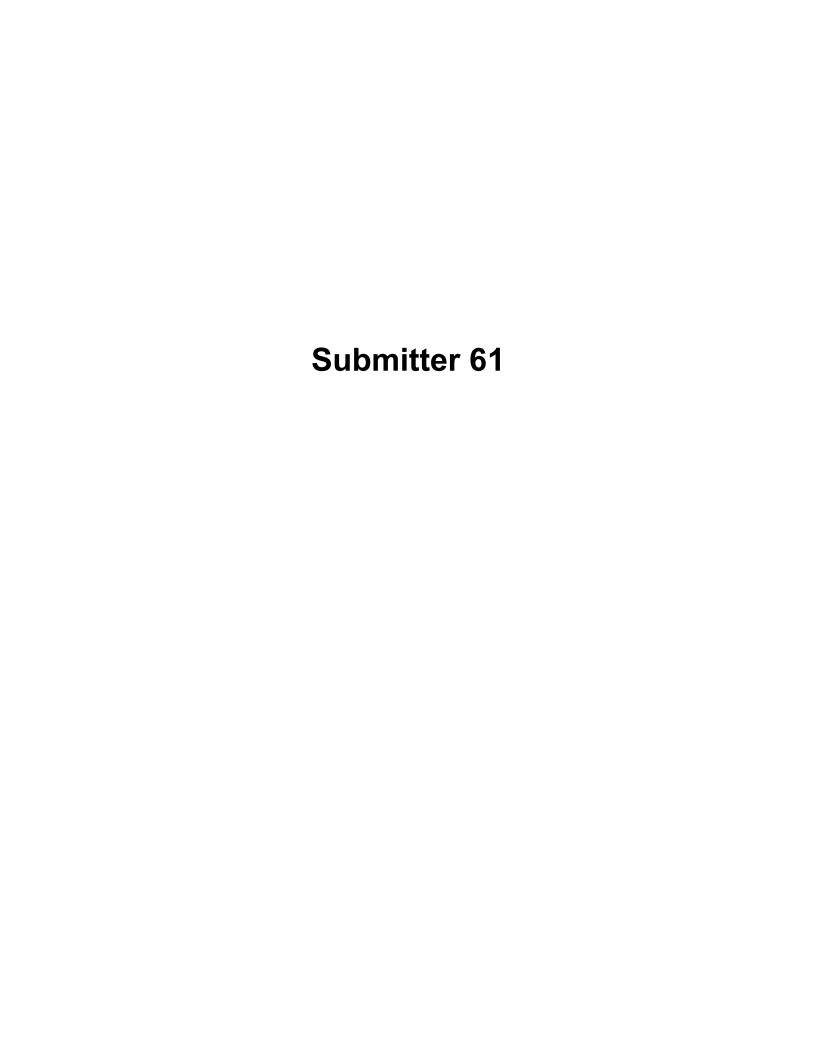
Neither the State Government, Bendigo Bank, nor other financial supporters should be willing to part with significant sums of money for a 10 year Lease. If the Upwey Men's Shed proves to be successful (and I hope that in the right location it will do just that) it would continue for many years. Griffiths Rd is simply not the right location to sustain an ongoing membership (see all points above about being central, visible, accessible, and integral to the Upwey Community).

As a local resident in Griffiths Rd, and very close to the proposed site, I could be taking advantage of the proposed proximity (it would be much easier for me to hobble along a few houses than trekking the Morris Rd hill in future years) but it simply isn't the right place for this sort of facility.

I wish the Upwey Mens' Shed **GREAT SUCCESS**, and I may well join them in the coming years.

Sincerely,





From:

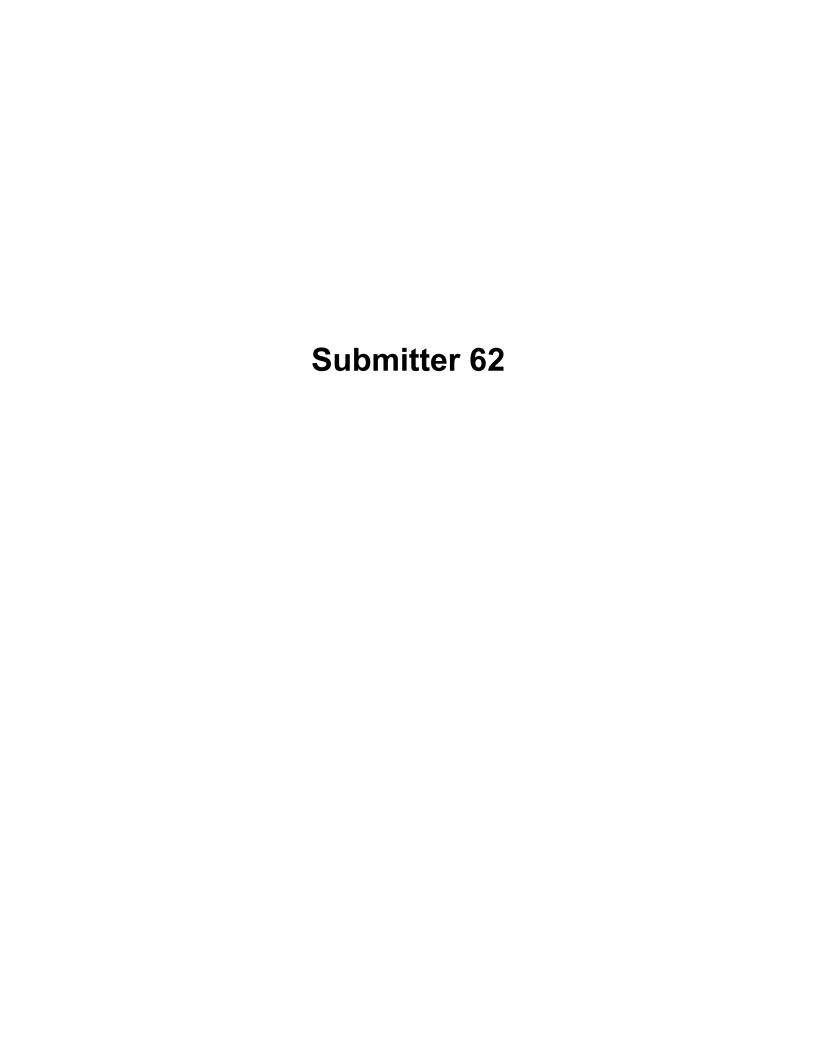
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 7:25 PM

To: mail

Subject: Proposed Lease - 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey - site for Upney mens shed

I wish to enthusiastically register my support for the proposed lease at - 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey which is the potential site for the Upwey Men's Shed.

Regards,



From:

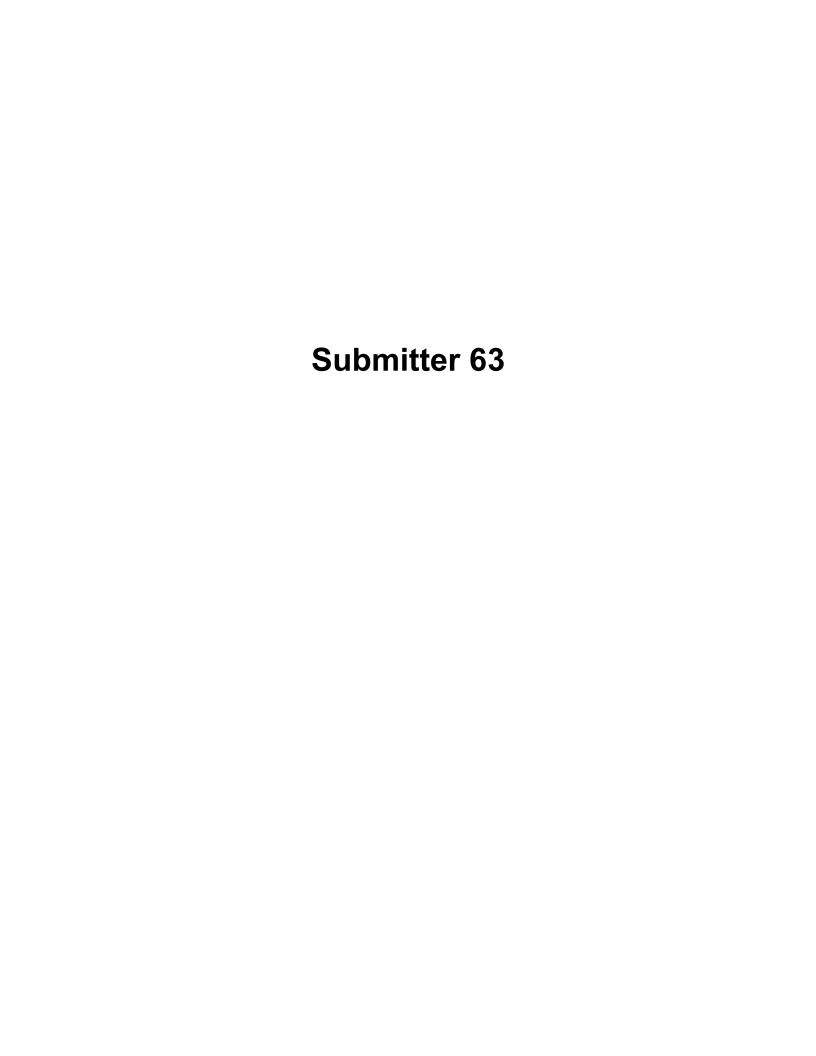
Sent: Friday, 13 December 2019 12:24 PM

To: mail

Subject: re- Proposed Lease - 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey - site for Upney mens shed

re- Proposed Lease - 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey - site for Upney mens shed -

I wish to register my support for the proposal lease at - 56 Griffiths Road, Upwey - site for Upney mens shed.



From:

Sent: Tuesday, 7 January 2020 8:43 PM

To:

Subject:

mail

Cc:

Upwey Mens' Shed Submission

Public Submission

The Chief Executive Officer

(Hands Up - I have a Conflict of interest ... I live at

.

Comment on proposed location 56 Griffiths Rd Upwey (Residential road & next to primary school)

The location is in my opinion not suitable

The Mens Shed will attract vehicles at all times of the day and across the week

The location on Griffiths St is small and will not accommodate on-site parking

The size limitation will not allow for activities associated with Mens Sheds

These would include power tool use and associated activities or gardening etc

Alternate Site Suggested for Investigation

Please note the above still stands about the current location being proposed and its limitations

I propose considering a reallocation of boundary of part of our land for this purpose as a purchase or as a secure lease by council

There would be suitable amounts of off-street parking

- away from residential homes (across creek would be closest house)
- could be incorporated into council depot space/parcel
- good access to Glenfern Rd
- All Services available
- Could be used as a more broad community facility including community garden etc
- Could even incorporate a community space for the "Friends of Glenfern Bushland Reserve" for tools, equipment & meetings

Is there a suitable location for community engagement owned by council in the area that could be made available on this site? Not to my knowledge

As I have stated I believe the current location is still not suitable

The location away from public transport is similar for both sites and the negative impacts on the community would be far greater for Griffiths Rd, with the potential to build a larger shed or multiple sheds on the Glenfern Rd site My 2 cents