

## Comparative Councils

### SUNBURY OUT OF HUME CITY COUNCIL

June 2014

The Panel used benchmark comparisons to assist in the deliberations. Noting that a new municipality including Sunbury would have certain characteristics, the Panel identified other municipalities in which future parallels were evident.

Benchmarking on a range of criteria was undertaken to inform a view as to the possible future costs and profile of a future municipal organization. The comparisons selected indicate a range of possible future profiles of staffing numbers and expenditure of:

- ☐ Ballarat, Melton, Warrnambool, and Wodonga.

The Panel noted that the comparator councils varied in population size as well as the other criteria, with no single metric providing a guide. In this light, the claim that no two councils are alike is a truism. Thus, the Panel had to consider a range of comparisons to make a judgment of what the possible and preferred characteristics of a new municipality would be. The Panel's requirement is also to inform its thinking about the direction for a new municipality in terms of costs and staffing profiles.

Table 1 | Comparative Councils

	Ballarat	Melton	Warrnambool	Wodonga
Population	96,000	123,000	33,000	36,000
Area (sq kms)	740	528	120	430
Total Staff	796	546	701	416
EFT Staff	593	n/a	396	255
Annual Budget	\$124m	\$110m	\$68m	\$68m
Net Equity	\$1.4b	\$1.1b	\$536m	\$381m

*Source: City of Ballarat Annual Report 2012-13; Melton City Council Annual Report 2012-13; City of Warrnambool Annual Report 2012-13; and City of Wodonga Annual Report 2012-13*