

City of Ballarat

PO Box 655
Ballarat Vic 3353
AUSTRALIA

Telephone: 03 5320 5500
Facsimile: 03 5333 4061

Date: 13 October 2011

Our Ref: IDM

Your Ref:

Enquiries: 03 5320 5889

Writer's
Direct Fax: 03 5320 5822

To the Developer/Engineering Designer

INFRASTRUCTURE DESIGN MANUAL

I am pleased to advise you that at its 14 September Meeting, Council formally adopted The Infrastructure Design Manual (IDM) as a means of significantly improving the efficiency of developing and assessing infrastructure design proposals within the City of Ballarat. Council regularly reviews its infrastructure design standards to reflect best practice in engineering design and service provision, and identified that the adoption of the IDM and the design standards within it would place Council in a stronger position to manage future infrastructure growth within the City.

The IDM was initially developed by the three regional councils (City of Greater Shepparton, City of Greater Bendigo and Campaspe Shire Council) and has been adopted by 15 other Councils across the State, with others in the process of doing so. The IDM provides a reference guide to the standards and requirements for infrastructure in regional Victoria and will be used to provide consultants and developers with Council requirements in respect to planning and infrastructure needs in development.

Standardised infrastructure design requirements (as reflected through the IDM) are a means of significantly improving the efficiency of developing and assessing infrastructure design proposals. Benefits include:

- Consistent requirements for consultants and developers who work across municipal boundaries.
- Clearer requirements which lead to applications of improved quality being received by Council.
- A more efficient approval processes due to the completeness of information being submitted.
- A reduction in the likelihood of costly re-designs at a later stage.
- The sharing of ideas and practices which will assist in a consistent and best practice approach.



CITY OF
BALLARAT

A comprehensive consultation process with major internal and external stakeholders to both inform and seek feedback on Council's adoption of the IDM was undertaken. The consultation process included adding Council's specific infrastructure requirements such as heritage, open space and Water Sensitive Urban Design for future urban development.

The IDM document is regularly updated to reflect the growing membership and new infrastructure requirements, and it is anticipated that the version incorporating Council's specific requirements will be released in late November/early December 2011. It is planned that for the interim period, Council's existing engineering design standards are to be used until 31st January 2012 or until such time the IDM has documented all of Council's specific design requirements. Council's design requirements are essentially the same as the ones in the current version of the IDM, although there are some areas such as road reserve widths, seal widths, and kerb and channel profiles where Council's requirements differ from the IDM's. The most up-to-date IDM and standard drawings can be found at the following web address: www.designmanual.com.au.

I am confident that the adoption of the IDM will lead to great benefits for both developers and Council, with enhanced consistency and clarity in processes and outcomes. Please contact our Coordinator Engineering Development, Rob Leeson on 5320 5889 or robleeson@ballarat.vic.gov.au should you wish to discuss Council's adoption of the IDM further.

Yours sincerely,

Craig Fletcher
Mayor

