



# **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**MONDAY, 23 JUNE 2008**

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RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 26 JUNE 2008

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT  
THE DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 23 JUNE 2008**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.34 P.M.**

**1. PRESENT**

*Councillors*

Cr. Peter Stephenson (Chairperson)  
Cr. Stanley Chiang  
Cr. Vince Fontana  
Cr. Chris Kelly  
Cr. Mendo Kundevski  
Cr. Melissa Salata  
Cr. Steven Tsitas

*Council Officers*

Michael Ulbrick – Chief Executive Officer  
Jeff Saker – General Manager City Services  
Jan Black – General Manager Communities and Culture  
Libby Hynes – General Manager Environment and Amenity  
Mark Davies – General Manager Corporate Services  
Kevin Breen – General Manager City Development  
Geoff Glynn – General Manager Community Assets and Leisure  
Bruce Dobson – Chief Financial Officer  
Rhys Thomas – Manager Business Improvement  
Sally Curran – Acting Manager Customer and Civic Services  
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

**2. APOLOGIES**

An apology was lodged for the absence of Cr. Asmar.

**3. DECLARATIONS OF INTERESTS AND CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil.

## 4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 4.1 CITY OF DAREBIN COUNCIL PLAN 2005-2009 AND STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2008-2012

**AUTHOR:** Manager, Business Improvement - Rhys Thomas

**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services - Mark Davies

#### BUDGET

**IMPLICATIONS:** Nil

#### SUMMARY:

Council adopted its Council Plan 2005-2009 in June 2005. The plan consisted of two documents: '4 Years, 50 Commitments' and 'Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2005-2009'.

In each financial year following adoption, the Council has adjusted the Council Plan 2005-2009 by updating the Strategic Resource Plan.

At its meeting on 26 May 2008, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to adjust the Council Plan by replacing the Strategic Resource Plan 2007-2011 with the Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012.

In response to the public notice no written submissions have been received.

It is recommended that Council adjust the City of Darebin Council Plan 2005-2009 by adopting and incorporating the Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012.

#### CONSULTATION:

Chief Executive Officer and General Managers

Proposed Strategic Resource Plan available for public inspection

Public Information Sessions conducted on 10 June 2008 and 12 June 2008

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. M. Salata

**SECONDED:** Cr. M. Kundevski

#### THAT:

- (1) Council adopt the 'Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012' attached as [Appendix A](#) to this report.
- (2) Council adjust the 'City of Darebin Council Plan 2005-2009' by replacing the 'Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2007-2011' with the 'Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012'.

**CARRIED**

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<b>REPORT</b>
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**BACKGROUND**

At its meeting on 26 May 2008, Council resolved to give public notice of its intention to adjust the Council Plan by replacing the Strategic Resource Plan 2007-2011 with the Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012.

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed adjustment to the Council Plan 2005-2009, in accordance with section 125 of the Local Government Act 1989, was given in 'The Age' newspaper on Saturday 31 May 2008 and in the 'Preston Leader' and 'Northcote Leader' newspapers on Tuesday 3 June 2008. The proposed Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012 and the Council Plan 2005-2009 were made available at all Council's Customer Service Centres and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on 17 June 2008.

**CORE ISSUES****Submissions**

No written submissions have been received in relation to the proposed adjustment to the Council Plan.

**Proposed Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012**

The proposed Strategic Resource Plan received by Council at its meeting on 26 May 2008 has been amended to reflect changes made to the proposed 2008/2009 Budget and minor changes to the subsequent financial years of the Plan. Further details of the changes made to the 2008/2009 Budget are included in the Council Report "Adoption of 2008/2009 Council Budget and Declaration of Rates".

Once the Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012 is adopted and incorporated into the Council Plan, the City of Darebin Council Plan 2005-2009 will be made up of the following two documents:

- *4 Years, 50 Commitments*
- City of Darebin Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Following adoption of the final Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012, the following actions are required:

- Make a copy of the Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012 and the Council Plan 2005-2009 available for inspection at Darebin Civic Centre and Customer Service Centres.
- Advise the Minister for Local Government of the adjustment to the Council Plan.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

- Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2008-2012 ([Appendix A](#))
- Darebin City Council Strategic Resource Plan 2007-2011
- '4 Years, 50 Commitments'

**4.2 ADOPTION OF 2008/2009 COUNCIL BUDGET AND  
DECLARATION OF RATES****AUTHOR:** Chief Financial Officer – Bruce Dobson**MANAGER:** General Manager Corporate Services - Mark Davies**BUDGET****IMPLICATIONS:** Budget for 2008/2009**SUMMARY:**

The proposed budget for the 2008/2009 Financial Year was received at a Special Meeting of Council on 26 May 2008. At that meeting, Council resolved to give public notice in accordance with section 129 of the Local Government Act 1989 of Council's intention to adopt the proposed Budget.

In response to the public notice, no written submissions have been received.

It is recommended that Council adopt the proposed Budget 2008/2009 and declare the rates for the 2008/2009 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

**CONSULTATION:**

Councillors

Chief Executive Officer and General Managers

Managers and Coordinators

Proposed Budget available for public inspection

Public Information Sessions conducted on 10 June 2008 and 12 June 2008.

**COUNCIL RESOLUTION****MOVED:** Cr. V. Fontana  
**SECONDED:** Cr. M. Kundevski**THAT:****1. Adoption of Budget**

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2008/09' attached as [Appendix A](#) to this report be adopted by Council.
- 1.2 The Chief Executive Officer be authorised to give notice of this decision to adopt the Budget, in accordance with section 130(2) of the Local Government Act 1989.

**2. Amount Intended To Be Raised**

The amount which Council intends to raise by general rates is declared to be \$72,529,705 and such further amount as is lawfully levied as a consequence of this Resolution.

### 3. General Rates

- 3.1 A general rate be declared in respect of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.
- 3.2 It be further declared that the general rate be raised by the application of differential rates.
- 3.3 A differential rate be declared for rateable land having the characteristics specified below, and which form the criteria for each differential rate so declared:

#### 3.3.1 Business Land

Any land which is:

- 3.3.1.1 occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- 3.3.1.2 unoccupied but zoned commercial or industrial under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

#### 3.3.2 Residential Land

Any land which is:

- 3.3.2.1 not business land; and
- 3.3.2.2 occupied for the principal purpose of physically accommodating persons; or
- 3.3.2.3 unoccupied but zoned residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.
- 3.4 Each differential rate will be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of each rateable land (categorised by the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3 of this Resolution) by the relevant percentages indicated in the following table:

Category	%
Business Land	0.419309 (or 0.419309 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.239605 (or 0.239605 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

- 3.5 It be recorded that Council considers that each differential rate will contribute to the equitable and efficient carrying out of Council functions, and that:
- 3.5.1 the respective objectives of each differential rate be those specified in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
- 3.5.2 the respective types or classes of land which are subject to each differential rate be those defined in the Schedule to this Resolution; and



- 3.5.3 the respective uses and levels of each differential rate in relation to those respective types or classes of land be those described in the Schedule to this Resolution; and
- 3.5.4 the relevant
- 3.5.4.1 uses of; and
- 3.5.4.2 geographical locations of; and
- 3.5.4.3 planning scheme zonings of; and
- 3.5.4.4 types of buildings on
- the respective types or classes of land be those identified in the Schedule to this Resolution.
- 3.6 It be confirmed that no amount is fixed as the minimum amount payable by way of general rate in respect of each rateable land within the municipal district.
- 3.7 In accordance with section 4 (4) of the Cultural and Recreational Lands Act 1963, the amount of rates payable in respect of each of the rateable land to which that Act applies be determined by multiplying the Capital Improved Value of that rateable land by 0.209655 per cent (or 0.209655 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

#### **4. Rebates**

It be recorded that Council grants no rebate or concession in accordance with section 169(1) of the Local Government Act 1989.

#### **5. Incentives**

No incentives be declared as the incentives to be given by Council for the payment of general rates before the dates fixed or specified for their payment under section 168 of the Local Government Act 1989.

#### **6. Other Charges**

- 6.1 An annual service charge for the optional collection and disposal of green waste (“the green waste service charge”) be declared in respect of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.
- 6.1.1 the Green Waste Service Charge is declared and will be levied on the basis of the following criteria:
- |         |                           |      |
|---------|---------------------------|------|
| 6.1.1.1 | 120 litre bin             | \$34 |
| 6.1.1.2 | 120 litre bin (pensioner) | \$18 |
| 6.1.1.3 | 240 litre bin             | \$60 |
| 6.1.1.4 | 240 litre (pensioner)     | \$44 |

6.1.2 the annual service charge is to be paid by four instalments in accordance with clause 7 of this recommendation. There are no incentives for early payment of the Green Waste Service Charge.

6.2 It be recorded that no other service rate or annual service charge be declared in respect of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

## **7. Payment Options**

The general rates must be paid by four instalments made on or before the following dates:

Instalment 1	-	30 September 2008
Instalment 2	-	1 December 2008
Instalment 3	-	2 March 2009
Instalment 4	-	1 June 2009.

## **8. Consequential**

8.1 Council confirms that it will, subject to sections 171, 171A and 172 of the Local Government Act 1989, require a person to pay interest on any general rates or service charges which:

8.1.1 that person is liable to pay; and

8.1.2 have not been paid by the date specified for payment.

8.2 The General Manager Corporate Services be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and service charges charged in accordance with the Local Government Act 1989.

## **9. Submissions**

No submissions have been received in relation to the Proposed Budget 2008/2009.

**SCHEDULE****BUSINESS LAND****Objectives:**

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

1. construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
2. development and provision of health and community services; and
3. provision of general support services.

**Types and Classes:**

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

**Use and Level of Differential Rate:**

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget proposed by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

**Geographic Location:**

Wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

**Use of Land:**

In the case of improved land, any use of the land.

**Planning Scheme Zoning:**

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning is applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Business Land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned commercial and/or industrial under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

**Types of Buildings:**

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

**RESIDENTIAL LAND****Objectives:**

To ensure that all rateable land makes an equitable financial contribution to the cost of carrying out the functions of Council, including (but not limited to) the:

1. construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
2. development and provision of health and community services; and
3. provision of general support services.

**Types and Classes:**

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

**Use and Level of Differential Rate:**

The money raised by the differential rate will be applied to the items of expenditure described in the Budget proposed by Council. The level of the rate for land in this category is considered to provide for an appropriate contribution to Council's budgeted expenditure, having regard to the characteristics of the land.

**Geographic Location:**

Wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

**Use of Land:**

In the case of improved land, any use of the land.

**Planning Scheme Zoning:**

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning is applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Residential Land. The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

The classification of land which is improved will be determined by the occupation of that land and have reference to the planning scheme zoning.

**Types of Buildings:**

All buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2008/2009 Financial Year.

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**REPORT****BACKGROUND**

The Darebin City Council Proposed Budget for the 2008/2009 year was received at a Special Meeting of Council on Monday, 26 May 2008.

Subsequent to that meeting, public notice of the proposed adoption of the Budget, in accordance with section 129 of the Act, was given in the 'The Age' newspaper on Saturday 31 May 2008, and in the 'Preston Leader' and the 'Northcote Leader' on Tuesday, 3 June 2008. The proposed Budget was made available for inspection at all Council's Customer Service Centres and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on Tuesday 17 June 2008.

**CORE ISSUES****Submissions**

No written submissions have been received in response to the Proposed 2008/2009 Budget.

**Proposed Budget 2008/2009**

The proposed budget received by Council at its Special Meeting on 26 May 2008 has been amended to reflect a number of changes that have occurred since that date. The key amendments included in the budget submitted for adoption are as follows:

- A reduction of \$0.91 million in operating expenditure in the budgeted insurance and workcover costs following confirmation of premiums for the 2008/2009 year
- An increase of \$0.37 million in operating revenue following a less than expected decrease in Council's grants commission allocation
- An increase of \$0.20 million in operating expenditure to meet the expected increase in fuel costs in light of the higher global oil price
- An increase of \$0.25 million in operating expenditure relating to operating grant income received in 2007/2008
- An increase in capital expenditure of \$3.33 million and an increase in operating expenditure of \$0.08 million relating to additional capital works being carried forward from 2007/2008, higher capital grants and an additional capital allocation to allow for the purchase of the former Northcote Police Station.

The changes to the proposed budget have had the effect of increasing the forecast operating surplus for the 2007/2008 year by \$0.34 million to \$3.27 million and increasing total cash and investments by \$1.71 million to \$21.17 million as at 30 June 2008. Total capital works has decreased by \$1.50 million to \$22.13 million.

For the 2008/2009 year these changes have resulted in the budgeted operating surplus increasing by \$1.95 million to \$2.80 million and total cash and investments increasing by \$0.34 million to \$15.03 million as at 30 June 2009. Total capital works has increased by \$3.40 million to \$29.87 million.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Following adoption of the final 2008/2009 Budget, the following actions are required:

- Give public notice of adoption of the 2008/2009 Budget.
- Make a copy of the 2008/2009 Budget available for inspection by the public at Darebin Civic Centre and Customer Service Centres.
- Submit a copy of the 2008/2009 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2008/2009.

**RELATED DOCUMENTS**

Council Minutes 26 May 2008

**5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.43pm.