



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

HELD ON

WEDNESDAY, 14 JULY 2010

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON FRIDAY 16 JULY 2010

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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 WEDNESDAY 14 JULY 2010**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.02 P.M.

1. PRESENT

Cr. Vince Fontana (Mayor)
Cr. Diana Asmar
Cr. Stanley Chiang
Cr. Gaetano Greco
Cr. Nick Katsis
Cr. Tim Laurence
Cr. Ben Morgan
Cr. Steven Tsitas

Council Officers

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive Officer
Bruce Dobson – Director Corporate Services
Michael Ballock – Director Development and Amenity
Geoff Glynn – Director Infrastructure
Katrina Knox – Acting Director Communities and Culture
Kerrie Jordan – Chief Financial Officer
Anita Craven – Manager Asset Strategy
Sally Curran – Manager Corporate Governance
Kerrie Wellington – Coordinator Revenue Services
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

2. APOLOGIES

It was noted that Cr. McCarthy is currently on leave of absence.

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Nil.

4. REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

**4.1 REPORT OF THE HEARING OF SUBMISSIONS
COMMITTEE**

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar

SECONDED: Cr. G. Greco

THAT the Report of the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on Thursday 8 July 2010 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

CARRIED

5 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

5.1 ADOPTION OF 2010/2011 COUNCIL BUDGET AND DECLARATION OF RATES

MINUTE NO. 268

AUTHOR: Chief Financial Officer – Kerrie Jordan

DIRECTOR: Director Corporate Services – Bruce Dobson

SUMMARY:

The Proposed Budget for the 2010/2011 Financial Year was received at a meeting of Council on 7 June 2010. 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, seven written submissions have been received. Four of the submitters were (by request) heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 8 July 2010.

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2010/2011 and declare the rates for the 2010/2011 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

CONSULTATION:

Councillors

Chief Executive Officer and Directors

Managers and Coordinators

Proposed Budget available for public inspection

Public Information Sessions conducted on 23 June 2010 and 24 June 2010.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. D. Asmar
SECONDED: Cr. N. Katsis

THAT:

1. Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2010/11' 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 \$82,444,543 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 2010/2011 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:

- 3.3.1.1 does not have the characteristics of vacant business land; and
- 3.3.1.2 is occupied for the principal purpose of carrying out the manufacture or production of, or trade in, goods or services; or
- 3.3.1.3 is unoccupied and is zoned other than residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

3.3.2 Residential Land

Any land which:

- 3.3.2.1 does not have the characteristics of vacant residential land; and
- 3.3.2.2 is used primarily for residential purposes; or
- 3.3.2.3 is unoccupied and is zoned residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

3.3.3 Vacant Business Land

Any land which is:

- 3.3.3.1 zoned other than residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme; and
- 3.3.3.2 on which no building designed or adapted for permanent occupation is constructed; or
- 3.3.3.3 in respect of which no occupancy permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993.

3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

Any land which is:

- 3.3.4.1 zoned residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme; and
- 3.3.4.2 on which no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation is constructed; or
- 3.3.4.3 in respect of which no occupancy permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993.

- 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	0.409290 (or 0.409290 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

Vacant Residential Land	0.350820 (or 0.350820 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	0.613935 (or 0.613935 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.233880 (or 0.233880 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 0.204645 per cent (or 0.204645 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).

4. Rebates

It be recorded that Council grants a rebate in relation to rates in accordance with section 169 of the Local Government Act 1989 to assist the proper development of the municipal district. The rebate is in the amount of \$50 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the State Concessions Act 2004, and is being granted because Council considers that it provides a benefit to the Darebin community in that it provides some relief on rates to elderly and other eligible residents in addition to the State Government rates concession and is consistent with principles of fairness and equity.

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 2010/2011 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	\$38
6.1.1.2	120 litre bin (pensioner)	\$22
6.1.1.3	240 litre bin	\$66
6.1.1.4	240 litre (pensioner)	\$50

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 2010/2011 Financial Year.

6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2010/2011 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 2010
Instalment 2	-	30 November 2010
Instalment 3	-	28 February 2011
Instalment 4	-	31 May 2011.

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 Director 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

9.1 Council advise the seven submitters to the Budget, Georgina Du Preez of Northcote, Owner Corporate Springthorpe Retirement Village, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre, Strathallan Golf Club, the Darebin Environmental Reference Group, Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club, and A Egan of Reservoir of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2010/2011 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2010/2011 Budget is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2009-2013 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
- The 2010/2011 Budget raises general rates by 4.5%, introduces differential rates for business and residential vacant land and continues the provision of a Council-funded rate rebate of \$50 to residential pensioner ratepayers. The level of rates raised allows Council to maintain service levels, introduce a number of new initiatives and deliver a significant capital works program.
- The capital works projects included and considered in the 2010/2011 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

- 9.2 Council also advise the seven submitters in accordance with the comments specific to each submission outlined in this report.

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 land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Business Land. The land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than 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 2010/2011 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 land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Residential Land. The 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 2010/2011 Financial Year.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

1. To promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land; and
2. 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:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and 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.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant residential land.

The residential land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

VACANT BUSINESS LAND**Objectives:**

1. To promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land so that foregone community and economic development resulting from under utilisation of land is minimised; and
2. 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:
 - Construction and maintenance of infrastructure assets;
 - Development and provision of health and community services; and
 - Provision of economic development and 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.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are applicable to the determination of vacant land which will be subject to the rate applicable to vacant business land.

The vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the City of Darebin Planning Scheme.

CARRIED

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Darebin City Council Proposed Budget for the 2010/2011 year was received at a meeting of Council on Monday 7 June 2010.

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 Wednesday 9 June 2010 and in the 'Preston Leader' and the 'Northcote Leader' on Wednesday 16 June 2010. The Proposed Budget was made available for inspection at all Council's Customer Service Centres and website and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on Wednesday 7 July 2010.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**Submissions**

Seven written submissions have been received in response to the Proposed 2010/2011 Budget as follows:

Georgina Du Preez of Northcote	Seeking funding to upgrade the playground at Peters Reserve Northcote
Roy Tate, Secretary Owners Corporation Springthorpe Retirement Village	Seeking rate reduction for Springthorpe Retirement Village residents.
Ali Burns, Chairperson, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre	Seeking funding of \$90,000 to upgrade Raleigh Street Childcare Centre which is owned by Council.
Basil Riordan, Secretary, Strathallan Golf Club	Seeking funding support for their \$12,000 water efficiently project.
Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)	Congratulates Council on its commitment to environmental and social programs.
Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club	Requesting Council to reconsider their decision to ask the Football Club for \$22,000 in relation to the Donath Reserve lighting.
A. Egan of Reservoir	Seven issues disagreeing with Council provision of a number of services.

Copies of the seven submissions have been circulated separately to Councillors for consideration.

Georgina Du Preez, Roy Tate, Juliette Halliday, Deputy Chair and Jo Smale, Treasurer Raleigh Street Childcare Centre, and John Nugent, Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club appeared before a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 8 July 2010 to be heard in support of their written submissions.

Peters Reserve Northcote*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Georgina Du Preez asks if Council could fund landscaping, play equipment, picnic tables and BBQs for Peters Reserve.

Comments on Submission:

Council recently adopted the Playspace Strategy which sets out priorities for the next 10 years for all Darebin play spaces. Based on this work the Playspace Strategy has prioritised indicative funding in 2012/2013 and 2013/2014 financial years for planting and some park furniture for Peters Reserve and, therefore, funding in the 2010/2011 budget is not recommended.

Springthorpe Retirement Village*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Roy Tate, Secretary of the Owners Corporation Springthorpe Retirement Village seeks a 25% reduction in rates for the 88 units plus 1 caretaker's residence. (A 25% reduction in 2010/2011 rates, excluding pensioner rebates, is \$23,887).

The reasons provided in the submission for the reduction in rates are:

- *'Retirement Village residents pay full council rates, but take up few of the services provided by Council', as the Village maintains all internal roads, footpaths, street lighting, recreational facilities and parking areas; and*
- *'The dollar value of rates collected per m² of land is more than double for Retirement Village Units than for the external residential properties'. (Quotes from the submission.)*

Comments on Submission:

The Local Government Act requires that rates be based on a property's value, rather than on the actual consumption of services. Council has determined to apply rates based on capital improved value, which includes the value of land and building improvements within a property. While Council does charge separately for the provision of some services (such as attending leisure centres), rates revenue funds many Council services and capital works improvements that are provided to residents in common. It is recognised that these services and works will be consumed or used to different extents by different residents.

Council is committed to a fair and equitable distribution of rates and has demonstrated this through the continued provision of a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2010/2011 budget.

Council is undertaking a rating review that has resulted in some changes in 2010/2011 with the introduction of some additional differential rates. This review will continue in the coming months and could result in further changes in further years. No further changes to the rating structure are recommended in the 2010/2011 budget.

Raleigh Street Childcare Centre*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Ali Burns, Chairperson and presentation at the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting by Juliette Halliday, Deputy Chair and Jo Smale, Treasurer of the Raleigh Street Childcare Centre requests funding of \$90,000 to upgrade the Council's Raleigh Street Childcare Centre.

Council, on behalf of Raleigh Street Childcare Centre, recently applied for funding from the Victorian Government as part of the 2009/2010 Children's Capital Program. The funding would enable the provision of two additional kindergarten spaces and additional staff facilities increasing the infrastructure capacity to deliver 15 hours of kindergarten for children at the centre in the year before formal schooling from 2013. The grant application was not successful.

Comments on Submission:

Key to Council's early years infrastructure priorities are the upgrading of facilities that do not currently meet Children's Regulations and works that can offer additional four year kindergarten groups. This means facilities whereby an additional room can be built are of higher priority. The facility and land available at Raleigh Street does not fit these criteria.

Therefore funding requested in 2010/2011 is not recommended.

Strathallan Golf Club Inc.*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Basil Riordan, Secretary of the Strathallan Golf Club Inc, requests an allocation of funding to support their water efficiency program which is estimated to be \$12,000.

Comments on Submission:

Whilst Council is supportive of the proposed water saving initiatives, Strathallan Golf Club is a private golf course on land managed as part of La Trobe University.

Council has no formal relationships with the Club to support their programs or even ensure the continuance or longevity of these programs.

Council also provides its own golf courses at Bundoora Park and in Northcote. This project would not rate highly on Council's list of existing irrigation projects and there are no other funds available in the 2010/2011 budget for unplanned irrigation work other than maintenance of existing systems.

The funding request, therefore, is not recommended.

Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG)*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from the Darebin Environmental Reference Group (DERG) commends Council on the low rate increase, high level of commitment to environmental programs and services and continued commitment to social programs.

Comments on Submission:

Council thanks DERG for their comments and looks forward to continuing the partnership with DERG.

Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from John Nugent from the Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club requests Council to reconsider the request for the Club to contribute \$22,000 towards the proposed lighting works.

Comments on Submission:

Funding of \$60,000 has been received from Sport and Recreation Victoria (SRV) Minor Facilities Fund to fund an improvement to lighting at the JC Donath Reserve to a level of 100 lux. The original project cost was estimated at \$280,000.

In its draft 2010/2011 budget Council matched the SRV funding of \$60,000. As a result of the shortfall between the original estimated cost and the funds available, the project was rescoped. The revised proposal provided 50 lux to the main oval plus secondary lighting to other playing fields. The estimated cost of providing the revised project is \$142,000. Council will fund this \$22,000 difference by matching the SRV funds and prioritising other budgeted lighting projects. This will provide a good lighting outcome for three playing fields at the Reserve.

The Club want to increase the light level to the original project scope of 100 lux at the number one oval which requires another \$22,000 above the \$142,000 explained above. Previous to the submission the Club have been told they will need to contribute the additional \$22,000 to achieve this. As part of the submission the Club has indicated that it cannot provide any funds, but can contribute \$12,000 of "in kind" labour to help meet the extra \$22,000 required. This will leave a shortfall of \$10,000 which Council would have to fund, should it approve the extended project.

Should Council approve the \$10,000 extra funding for this project, savings or scope changes would need to be found in the capital program "Renewal of sportsfield lighting at sporting reserves."

A Egan of Reservoir*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from A. Egan of Reservoir raises seven objections to the projects/services Council funds.

A. Egan believes that the following services should be funded by the State or Federal Governments and not Council. These services include:

- Funding for Community Groups through Community Grants Scheme;
- Support for Young People through the Y-ute program;
- Citizenship Ceremony; and
- Spectrum Immigration Services.

In addition, A. Egan does not support Council's funding of:

- International Student Festival;
- Reservoir Library Redevelopment; and
- Darebin newsletter being published in 6 different languages.

Comments on Submission:

Council carefully considers the types of services and programs it is providing. Many of these services are designed specifically to meet the needs of the diverse Darebin community and to respond to community needs that arise. Some services are funded through a mix of Federal or State and Council funding, while others are funded solely by Council. Each of the services and funding listed by A. Egan have been considered by Council as being important to the Darebin community and therefore no changes are recommended to the 2010/2011 budget arising from this submission.

Budget 2010/2011

The Proposed Budget received by Council at its meeting on 7 June 2010 has been amended to reflect a number of changes that have occurred since that date. These amendments relate primarily to additional capital works grant funding and associated expenditure, and timing differences on the receipt and expenditure of grants for operating programs between the 2009/2010 and 2010/2011 financial years. Although large in dollar terms due to the impact of external grant funding, the changes do not impact the underlying level of Council expenditure across the two financial years.

The key amendments included in the budget submitted for adoption are as follows:

Forecast 2009/2010

- An increase in capital income of \$0.48 million, including the receipt of \$0.50 million grants funding for the Lancaster Gate Community Centre development.
- A reduction in capital expenditure of \$3.11 million, reflecting additional capital works being carried forward to 2010/2011.
- An increase in operating grants of \$1.18 million reflecting the early receipt of Council's first quarter 2010/2011 Grants Commission payment.

Budget 2010/2011

- A reduction in capital income of \$4.48 million, including \$4.00 million of grant funding for the Reservoir Library with Council having received formal notification that its application for grant funding has not been successful at this time.

- A reduction in capital expenditure of \$0.88 million, largely as a result of Reservoir Library (\$4.00 million) no longer progressing partly offset by \$3.11 million in additional capital works carried forward from the 2009/2010 year.
- A reduction of \$1.18 million in Council's Grants Commission allocation, due to the first quarter allocation being paid in advance to Council in June 2010.

The changes to the proposed budget have had the effect of increasing the forecast operating surplus for the 2009/2010 year by \$1.67 million to \$7.97 million and increasing total cash and investments by \$4.78 million to \$33.84 million as at 30 June 2010. Total capital works has decreased by \$3.11 million to \$22.87 million.

For the 2010/2011 year these changes have resulted in the budgeted operating surplus reducing by \$5.67 million to a surplus of \$0.29 million. The underlying operating surplus has not been impacted by these changes and remains at \$0.07 million. There was also no change to total cash and investments as at 30 June 2011 (\$20.22 million). Total capital works has reduced by \$0.88 million to \$37.32 million.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The 2010/2011 Budget has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming year to the objectives set out in the Council Plan 2009-2013 and the Strategic Resource Plan.

Environmental sustainability

The 2010/2011 Budget continues Council's funding of environmental operations in a range of areas including waste collection and recycling services, street cleaning, litter collection, park and sporting field maintenance and improvements in the context of drought, water-saving and energy efficiency measures.

Funding has also been included to continue Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Social inclusion and diversity

The Council Plan 2009-2013 contains a number of policy directions specifically designed to reflect Council's commitment to social inclusion and diversity, and the proposed Budget has been prepared in this context. Social inclusion, fairness and equity have been key principles in Council determining how to raise income and allocate expenditure to fund the many services it delivers and infrastructure it maintains and upgrades. The continuation of a \$50 rebate to Darebin's 12,000 eligible pensioner ratepayers is one example within the budget of Council's commitment to these principles.

Other

The proposed budget is prepared in the context of key principles in the Strategic Resource Plan 2009-2013 that underpin Council's long term financial planning. These principles are:

- Maintenance of the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community and a flexibility to address changing community needs with innovative services and facilities.

- A focus on renewing community assets such as roads, footpaths, open space and buildings to ensure they are maintained at an appropriate standard to meet required service levels.
- Generation of sufficient ongoing income to fund Council services and capital works commitments over the longer term.
- Holding of sufficient cash and other assets in order to meet Council's payment obligations to suppliers and employees.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All matters raised in this report which have financial and resource implications have been reflected in the 2010/2011 Budget.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Following adoption of the final 2010/2011 Budget, the following actions are required:

- Advise the submitters of Council's decision in relation to the 2010/2011 Budget and the reasons for the decision.
- Give public notice of adoption of the 2010/2011 Budget.
- Make a copy of the 2010/2011 Budget available for inspection by the public at Darebin Civic Centre, Customer Service Centres and on Council's website.
- Submit a copy of the 2010/2011 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2010/2011.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Section 80C of the Local Government Act 1989 requires members of Council staff and persons engaged under contract to provide advice to Council to disclose any direct or indirect interest in a matter to which the advice relates.

The Director authorising this report, having made enquiries with relevant members of staff, reports that no disclosable interests have been raised in relation to this report.

RELATED DOCUMENTS

Council Minutes 7 June 2010

Submissions received from Georgina Du Preez of Northcote, Owner Corporate Springthorpe Retirement Village, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre, Strathallan Golf Club, the Darebin Environmental Reference Group, Keon Park Stars Junior Football Club, and A Egan of Reservoir.

6. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 7.18pm.