



# **MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING**

**HELD ON**

**MONDAY, 27 JUNE 2011**

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RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON WEDNESDAY 29 JUNE 2011

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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 27 JUNE 2011**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.03 P.M.**

**1. PRESENT**

Cr. Diana Asmar (Mayor)  
Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Nick Katsis  
Cr. Tim Laurence  
Cr. Ben Morgan  
Cr. Trent McCarthy  
Cr. Steven Tsitas

***Council Officers***

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive  
Michael Ballock – Director City Works and Development  
Katrina Knox – Group Manager Community Services  
Fred Warner – Group Manager People and Performance  
Daniel Freer – Director City Design and Environment  
Vijaya Vaidyanath – Director Corporate and Business Services  
Kerrie Jordan – Chief Financial Officer  
Rhys Thomas – Governance and Corporate Planning Manager  
Ron Downes – Council Business Coordinator

**2. APOLOGIES**

It was noted that Cr. Chiang and Cr. Fontana are both 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**

<b>COUNCIL RESOLUTION</b>
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**MOVED:** Cr. B. Morgan  
**SECONDED:** Cr. N. Katsis

**THAT** the Report of the Hearing of Submissions Committee meeting held on Tuesday 14 June 2011 be received and the Committee Recommendations be adopted.

**CARRIED**

## 5 CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 5.1 ADOPTION OF 2011/2012 COUNCIL BUDGET AND DECLARATION OF RATES

MINUTE NO. 196

**AUTHOR:** Chief Financial Officer – Kerrie Jordan

**REVIEWED BY:** Director Corporate and Business Services – Vijaya Vaidyanath

#### SUMMARY:

The Proposed Budget for the 2011/2012 Financial Year was received at a meeting of Council on 9 May 2011. 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, eight written submissions have been received. One of the submitters was (by request) heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 14 June 2011.

The Proposed Budget for 2011/2012 is an effective rate increase of 4.3% and after increasing Council's pensioner rate rebate from \$50 to \$100 the average rate is a modest 5%. This is one of the lowest increases in metropolitan Melbourne.

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2011/2012 and declare the rates for the 2011/2012 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

#### CONSULTATION:

Councillors

Chief Executive Officer

Directors

General Managers

Managers and Coordinators

### COUNCIL RESOLUTION

**MOVED:** Cr. S. Tsitas

**SECONDED:** Cr. N. Katsis

#### THAT:

##### 1. Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2011/2012' 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 \$88,311,372 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 2011/2012 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**

- 3.3.1.1 Business Land is any land which 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 Darebin Planning Scheme

### **3.3.2 Residential Land**

- 3.3.2.1 Residential Land is any land which does not have the characteristics of Vacant Residential Land, and:
- 3.3.2.2 Is used or designed or adapted primarily for residential purposes; or
- 3.3.2.3 Is unoccupied and is zoned residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

### **3.3.3 Vacant Business Land**

- 3.3.3.1 Vacant Business Land is any land which is zoned other than residential under the 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 building permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993.

### 3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

3.3.4.1 Vacant Residential Land is any land which is zoned residential under the 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 building permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993.

### 3.3.5 Electronic Gaming Machine Land

3.3.5.1 Electronic Gaming Machine Land is any rateable land on which electronic gaming machines (EGMs) are operated.

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	0.429755 (or 0.429755 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Residential Land	0.736722 (or 0.736722 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	0.859509 (or 0.859509 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Electronic Gaming Machine Land	0.736722 (or 0.736722 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.245574 (or 0.245574 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 onthe 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 0.214877 per cent (or 0.214877 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 \$100 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 2011/2012 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             | \$40 |
| 6.1.1.2 | 120 litre bin (pensioner) | \$22 |
| 6.1.1.3 | 240 litre bin             | \$70 |
| 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 2011/2012 Financial Year.
- 6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2011/2012 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 2011
Instalment 2	-	30 November 2011
Instalment 3	-	29 February 2012
Instalment 4	-	31 May 2012.

**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 and Business 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 eight submitters to the Budget:

- Claudio Tine, Fairfield,
- John Timmer of Housing Choices Australia,
- Isaac Crawford, Kingsbury,
- Julie Kinnersley, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre,
- Philip Alexander, Twin Parks Village,
- John Hassall, Darebin Greens
- Alex Bhathal, Preston and
- Robin Gallagher, Darebin Bicycle User Group

of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2011/2012 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2011/2012 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 2011/2012 Budget raises general rates by 5.0%, introduces differential rates for electronic gaming machine land and increased the provision of a Council-funded rate rebate to \$100 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 2011/2012 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

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

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

The objective of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics above, is 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 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 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:**

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

**Use of Land:**

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.1.

**Planning Scheme Zoning:**

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are 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 Darebin Planning Scheme.

**Types of Buildings:**

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2011/12 Financial Year.

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

The objective of this differential rate is 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 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 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:**

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

**Use of Land:**

The use of the land within this differential rate is, in the case of improved land, any use of land creating the relevant characteristics set out above in paragraph 3.3.2.

**Planning Scheme Zoning:**

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are 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 Darebin Planning Scheme.

**Types of Buildings:**

The types of buildings on the land within this differential rate are all buildings which are now constructed on the land or which are constructed prior to the expiry of the 2011/12 Financial Year.

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

The objectives of this differential rate are to:

1. promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land; and
2. 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 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:**

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land 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 land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Vacant Residential Land. The land affected by this rate is that which is zoned residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

**VACANT BUSINESS LAND****Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

1. 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. 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 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:**

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land 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 land which will be subject to the rate applicable to Vacant Business Land. The land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme.

**ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE LAND****Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those owning land having the relevant characteristics described above, are to:

- Equitably impose a differential rate on rateable land within the municipal district on which EGMs are operated and thereby to raise revenue to be used to improve the overall quality of life of people in the local community within Council's municipal district having regard to the social and economic impacts of problem gambling and achieve the best outcomes for that local community in accordance with the primary objectives of Council pursuant to section 3C(1) of the *Local Government Act 1989*; and
- Enable Council to equitably and efficiently carry out its functions including –
  - a) Advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the local community;
  - b) Planning for and providing services and facilities for the local community; and
  - c) Raising revenue to enable Council to perform its functions.

**Use and Level of Differential Rate:**

The money raised by the differential rate from the differential rate will be used to develop and implement strategies to reduce the impact of problem gambling. The gambling strategies will assist Council to:

- a) Promote the responsible use of EGMs;
- b) Better manage the issue of gambling with the community; and
- c) Reduce the impact of problem gambling.

The following are reasons for the use of the differential rate:

The land on which EGMs are operated is to be subject to a differential rate so that revenue is raised to develop and implement strategies to reduce the impact of problem gambling within the municipal district.

Council will use the amounts derived from the differential rate to fund the following projects:

- a) Developing and organising programs through the Intercultural Centre, targeting at risk groups in the community. (Cost = \$80,025); and
- b) Providing funding and projects related to gambling and community issues utilising community grants, Darebin's emergency relief networks and not for profit organisations. (Cost = \$80,000)

Total budget allocation: \$160,025.

The following are the reasons for the level of the EGM land differential rate:

The EGM land differential rate will be levied at 1.72 times the rate for Business Land.

In the 2011/2012 Financial Year, there will be 9 properties within Council's municipal district which will be subject to the differential rate.

The total amount raised by the differential rate in the 2011/2012 Financial Year will be \$369,289.

\$209,264 of the amount referred to above will fund the ordinary budget expenditure as per the application of the general rate. This amount represents the money raised had the Business Land differential rate been applied to these properties.

The remaining \$160,025 will be applied towards the projects detailed above.

The need to provide funding for these is the reason for levying the differential rate at 1.72 the rate for Business Land.

There has been no change in the valuation system, so that section 161(2)(iii) of the *Local Government Act* 1989 does not arise.

#### **Types and Classes:**

Rateable land having the relevant characteristics described in the Resolution.

For these purposes, EGM has the same meaning as "gaming machine" in section 1.3 of the *Gambling Regulation Act* 2003, that is, any device, whether wholly or partly mechanically or electronically operated, that is so designed that –

- (a) It may be used for the purpose of playing a game of chance or a game of mixed chance and skill; and
- (b) As a result of making a bet on the device, winnings may become payable and includes any machine declared to be a gaming machine under section 3.1.3 of that Act but does not include –
- (c) A lucky envelope vending machine within the meaning of Chapter 8 of that Act; or

- (d) Interactive gaming equipment that is used or intended to be used for the purposes of interactive games and not for gaming of any other kind.

Land which may be subject to the differential rate is all land having the relevant characteristics described above, except land which is otherwise not rateable land pursuant to section 154(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Land which is not rateable land includes, but is not limited to, land held in trust and used exclusively as a sub-branch of the Returned Services League of Australia in accordance with section 154(2)(f)(ii) of the Act.

**Use of Land:**

The use of the land within this differential rate is any rateable land on which EGMs are operated.

**Geographic Location:**

The geographic location of the land within this differential rate is land wherever located within the municipal district, without reference to ward boundaries.

**Planning Scheme Zoning:**

The characteristics of planning scheme zoning are inapplicable to the determination of this differential rate.

**CARRIED**

<b>REPORT</b>
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**INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND**

The Darebin City Council Proposed Budget for the 2011/2012 year was received at a meeting of Council on Monday, 9 May 2011.

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 11 May 2011 and in the 'Preston Leader' and the 'Northcote Leader' on 17 and 18 May 2011. The Proposed Budget was made available for inspection at all Council's Customer Service Centres and web site and written submissions were invited. Submissions closed on Wednesday 8 June 2011.

**ISSUES AND DISCUSSION**

**Rate increase**

The Proposed Budget for 2011/2012 is an effective rate increase of 4.3% and after increasing Council's pensioner rate rebate from \$50 to \$100 the average rate is a modest 5%. This is one of the lowest increases in metropolitan Melbourne.



## Submissions

Eight written submissions have been received in response to the Proposed 2011/2012 Budget as follows:

Claudio Tine, Fairfield	Seeking a rate increase equivalent to the inflation rate.
John Timmer of Housing Choices Australia,	Requesting Council to forgo rates on Housing Choice Australia's properties in Darebin.
Isaac Crawford, Kingsbury,	Seeking the \$100 rate rebate offered to pensioners to be extended to self funded retirees.
Julie Kinnersley, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre,	Congratulates Council for the inclusion of \$90,000 in the proposed budget for the improvements to Raleigh Street Childcare Centre.
Philip Alexander, Twin Parks Village,	Seeking funding to improve the roadwork and footpath in Davis Street Preston.
John Hassall, Darebin Greens	Congratulates Council on the initiatives outlined in the proposed budget.
Alex Bhathal, Preston	Seeking \$100,000 p.a. for an Urban Orchard Scheme, funding for a feasibility study on developing an Urban Farm and Eco Centre, and \$10,000 for free mulch and delivery to interested public housing tenants.
Robin Gallagher, Darebin Bicycle User Group	Seeking \$40,000 for improved cycling facilities.

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

Julie Kinnersley, Chairperson and Juliette Halliday Deputy Chairperson, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre appeared before a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 14 June 2011 to be heard in support of their written submissions.

### Claudio Tine, Fairfield

#### *Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Claudio Tine requested Council to increase rates by no more than the inflation rate.

#### *Comments on Submission:*

Recently announced CPI for the March 2011 was 3.3% (not 2.3% as suggested by Mr. Tine).

Employee costs represent over 50% of Darebin's total operating costs or \$63million. An EBA increase of 4% in 2011/2012, plus additional increases in fuel, Fire Brigade Levy, insurance, land fill levy etc, makes CPI an inaccurate measure in determining the rate rise

The Proposed Budget for 2011/2012 is an effective rate increase of 4.3% and after increasing Council's pensioner rate rebate from \$50 to \$100 the average rate is a modest 5%. This is one of the lowest increases in metropolitan Melbourne.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission.

John Timmer of Housing Choices Australia

*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from John Timmer, Manager HCA Partnerships requests Council gives consideration to providing a rates rebate, or rates exemption, for affordable housing that is owned and managed by Registered Affordable Housing associations in the municipality.

*Comments on Submission:*

The Local Government Act 1989 was amended on 8 December 2009 by the inclusion of section 169 (1D). This provision gives Councils the ability to grant a "rate rebate or concession" to providers of low income housing. A rate exemption is a different designation and the majority of properties owned by Affordable Housing Associations would remain rateable.

Housing Choices are one of five Affordable Housing Associations in the municipality. These Associations own 206 dwellings of which 181 dwellings are rateable. Rates of \$184,110 were levied in 2010/2011 on these 181 dwellings. Rate exemptions on 25 properties (cost to Council or \$77,173) are provided on the basis they are occupied by disabled persons that do not enjoy exclusive use.

Affordable Housing Associations are the responsibility of State Government.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission.

Isaac Crawford, Kingsbury

*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Isaac Crawford, is requesting the \$100 rate rebate offered to pensioners be extended to self funded retirees.

*Comments on Submission:*

The definition used to receive the pensioner rebate is the same used to receive the State Government Rebate. This is a holder of a current:

- \* Pensioner Concession Card (issued by Centrelink or Department of Veterans Affairs); or
- \* DVA Gold Card TPI - Totally and Permanently Incapacitated; or
- \* DVA Gold Card WW - War Widow.

There is no intention to deviate from this definition.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission.

Julie Kinnersley, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Julie Kinnersley, Chairperson, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre supports the \$90,000 included in proposed budget for upgrades to the Raleigh Street Childcare Centre.

*Comments on Submission:*

Council thanks Raleigh Street Childcare Centre for their comments and looks forward to continuing working with Raleigh Street Childcare Centre Inc.

Philip Alexander, Twin Parks Village*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Philip Alexander, Twin Parks Village Manager, requests funds to construct a footpath along Davis Street, Preston.

*Comments on Submission:*

The properties have been built up to the road. To construct a footpath would cost up to \$320,000. Council could provide the land with the landowners providing the funding for the footpath.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission

John Hassall, Darebin Greens*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from John Hassall with input from Jim Buckell and Martinelli on behalf of Darebin Branch of Australian Greens (Victoria), congratulates Council on the initiatives included in the proposed 2011/2012 budget.

Darebin Greens support any advocacy Council makes for greater State and Federal contributions. They also support Council's:

- Social sustainability focus on multiculturalism, community and the arts,
- Environmental sustainability focus on sustainable transport, biodiversity, environmentally sustainable design, waste, water and energy programs and
- Economic sustainability focus on revitalising and promoting new business precincts and strip shopping, Green business initiatives and broadband.

*Comments on Submission:*

Council thanks Darebin Greens for their comments and support.

Alex Bhathal, Preston*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Alex Bhathal of Preston, is seeking \$100,000 p.a. for an Urban Orchard Scheme, funding for a feasibility study on developing an Urban Farm and Eco Centre, and \$10,000 for free mulch and delivery to interested public housing tenants.

*Comments on Submission:*

Council have allocated \$35,000 to Sustainable Food initiatives in the new budget and public housing tenants and their gardens will be considered as part of this program. Sprout Community Garden already have funding from the Climate Communities program to create gardens in similar situations and Council have donated compost bins for this project.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission

Robin Gallagher, Darebin Bicycle User Group*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Robin Gallagher, Campaigns Coordinator, Darebin Bicycle User Group is seeking an extra \$40,000 to improve cycling facilities.

*Comments on Submission:*

Funding of \$1.4 million has already been included in the proposed 2012 Capital Works Program for cycling initiatives. This includes \$40,000 for improving cycling facilities.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from this submission

**POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

The 2011/2012 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 2011/2012 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 increase of the \$50 rebate to \$100 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 2011-2015 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 a financial implication have been reflected in the 2011/2012 Budget.

**CONCLUSION**

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2011/2012 and declare the rates for the 2011/2012 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

No changes are recommended to the 2011/2012 budget arising from the eight submissions received.

**FUTURE ACTIONS**

Following adoption of the final 2011/2012 Budget, the following actions are required:

- Advise the submitters of Council's decision in relation to the 2011/2012 Budget and the reasons for the decision.
- Give public notice of adoption of the 2011/2012 Budget.
- Make a copy of the 2011/2012 Budget available for inspection by the public at Darebin Civic Centre, Customer Service Centres and Council's website.
- Submit a copy of the 2011/2012 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2011/2012.

**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 Officer reviewing 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 9 May 2011 and Hearing of Submissions Committee Minutes 14 June 2011

Submissions received from Claudio Tine, Fairfield, John Timmer of Housing Choices Australia, Isaac Crawford, Kingsbury, Julie Kinnersley, Raleigh Street Childcare Centre, Philip Alexander, Twin Parks Village, John Hassall, Darebin Greens, Alex Bhathal, Preston and Robin Gallagher, Darebin Bicycle User Group

**6. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 7.34pm.