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# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Wednesday 13 May 2020

Released to the public on Monday 18 May 2020



## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF TRADITIONAL OWNERS AND ABORIGINAL AND TORRES STRAIT ISLANDER COMMUNITIES IN DAREBIN**

Darebin City Council acknowledges the Wurundjeri Woi-Wurrung people as the Traditional Owners and custodians of the land we now call Darebin and pays respect to their Elders, past, present and emerging.

Council pays respect to all other Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities in Darebin.

Council recognises, and pays tribute to, the diverse culture, resilience and heritage of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people.

We acknowledge the leadership of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander communities and the right to self-determination in the spirit of mutual understanding and respect.



### English

These are the Minutes for the Council Meeting. For assistance with any of the items in the minutes, please telephone 8470 8888.

### Arabic

هذه هي محاضر اجتماع المجلس. للحصول على المساعدة في أي من البنود في المحاضر، يرجى الاتصال بالهاتف 8470 8888.

### Chinese

这些是市议会会议纪要。如需协助了解任何纪要项目，请致电8470 8888。

### Greek

Αυτά είναι τα Πρακτικά της συνεδρίασης του Δημοτικού Συμβουλίου. Για βοήθεια με οποιαδήποτε θέματα στα πρακτικά, παρακαλείστε να καλέσετε το 8470 8888.

### Hindi

ये काउंसिल की बैठक का सारांश है। सारांश के किसी भी आइटम में सहायता के लिए, कृपया 8470 8888 पर टेलीफोन करें।

### Italian

Questo è il verbale della riunione del Comune. Per assistenza con qualsiasi punto del verbale, si prega di chiamare il numero 8470 8888.

### Macedonian

Ова е Записникот од состанокот на Општинскиот одбор. За помош во врска со која и да било точка од записникот, ве молиме телефонирајте на 8470 8888.

### Nepali

यी परिषद्को बैठकका माइन्युटहरू हुन्। माइन्युटका कुनै पनि वस्तुसम्बन्धी सहायताका लागि कृपया 8470 8888 मा कल गर्नुहोस्।

### Punjabi

ਇਹ ਕੌਂਸਲ ਦੀ ਮੀਟਿੰਗ ਵਾਸਤੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਹੈ। ਸੰਖੇਪ ਸਾਰਾਂਸ਼ ਵਿਚਲੀਆਂ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਆਈਟਮਾਂ ਸੰਬੰਧੀ ਸਹਾਇਤਾ ਵਾਸਤੇ, ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰਕੇ 8470 8888 ਨੂੰ ਟੈਲੀਫੋਨ ਕਰੋ।

### Somali

Kuwaani waa qodobadii lagaga wada hadlay Fadhiga Golaha. Caawimada mid kasta oo ka mid ah qodobada laga wada hadlay, fadlan la xiriiir 8470 8888.

### Spanish

Estas son las Actas de la Reunión del Concejo. Para recibir ayuda acerca de algún tema de las actas, llame al teléfono 8470 8888.

### Urdu

یہ کاؤنسل کی میٹنگ کی روداد کے نقاط ہیں۔ روداد کے کسی بھی حصے کے بارے میں مدد کے لیے براہ مہربانی 8470 8888 پر فون کریں۔

### Vietnamese

Đây là những Biên bản Họp Hội đồng Thành phố. Muốn có người trợ giúp mình về bất kỳ mục nào trong biên bản họp, xin quý vị gọi điện thoại số 8470 8888.

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON WEDNESDAY 13 MAY 2020**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 6.03pm**

**1. PRESENT**

***Councillors***

Cr. Susan Rennie (Mayor) (Chairperson)  
Cr. Susanne Newton (Deputy Mayor)  
Cr. Steph Amir  
Cr. Gaetano Greco  
Cr. Kim Le Cerf  
Cr. Trent McCarthy  
Cr. Lina Messina  
Cr. Julie Williams

***Council Officers***

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer  
Ingrid Bishop - General Manager Governance and Engagement  
Sam Hewett - General Manager Operations and Capital  
Kerry McGrath - General Manager Communities  
Rachel Ollivier - General Manager City Sustainability and Strategy  
Damian Hogan – Manager Finance  
Wendy Dinning – Manager Equity, Wellbeing and Economic Development  
Stephen Mahon - Coordinator Governance, Council Business and Civic Services  
Lisa Thomas-Bates - Governance Project Officer  
Michelle Martin - Council Business Officer

**2. APOLOGIES**

Cr Tim Laurence

**3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Nil

## 4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 4.1 DRAFT ANNUAL BUDGET 2020–21 AND DRAFT STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2020–24 RELEASE FOR COMMUNITY CONSULTATION

**Author:** Manager Finance

**Reviewed By:** General Manager Governance and Engagement

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The annual budget is an essential planning and resource tool produced each year. The development of a considered budget is vital to the ongoing operational and financial viability of Council. The budget sets out the expected income and expenditure for operational, strategic and capital activities for the coming year and also incorporates Council's rating strategies. The 2020/21 budget is informed by Council's ten year capital works plan.

For 2020/21, the Council's annual budget has been significantly influenced by and directed towards Council's response to the COVID-19 global pandemic. Council's projected income has been dramatically impacted and services directly affected.

In responding these unprecedented times, it is critical that Council maintains a sound financial position so that Council can support both the community and achieve financial obligations now but also in the medium and long term.

On 27 March 2020, Council took a significant position to support our community impacted by coronavirus, introducing a raft of initiatives to support residents, community organisations and local businesses. This includes the adoption of a COVID-19 Financial Hardship Policy and the endorsement of the COVID-19 Community and Local Business Resilience and Recovery Package.

Council's \$11.3 million package complements the existing Federal and State Government recovery and stimulus packages and focuses on the most vulnerable in our community. Importantly, the total value of Council's efforts to support the community is significantly higher when in-kind support via staff redeployments and service redirections are taken into account. This effort is made more significant when considering that Council's own financial circumstances have also been impacted with an estimated reduction in revenue of at least \$15 million expected.

This budget should be read together with the Community and Local Business Resilience and Recovery Package and the Financial Hardship initiatives adopted by Council.

The budget documentation forms part of a comprehensive public accountability process and reporting that includes:

- The Council Plan
- The Strategic Resource Plan
- The Annual Budget
- Internal and external audit
- The Annual Report

The draft budget contains the information specified in the *Local Government Act 1989* ('the Act') and all details required by the Local Government (Planning and Reporting) Regulations 2014 ('the Regulations'). It has also been prepared in accordance with the model budget template.

<b>Recommendation</b>
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**That Council:**

- 1) Adopts the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 and the draft Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 for the purposes of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- 2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Special Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020, the Annual Budget 2020–21 (**Appendix A**) and the Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 (**Appendix B**) presented to that meeting.
- 3) Gives public notice in accordance with sections 169 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to grant, at a Special Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020, a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2020–21 year in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*.
- 4) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 or in relation to the granting of a rate rebate to pensioners, and requests to be heard in support of their written submission, will be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25 June 2020.
- 5) Notes that the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 supports the commencement in 2019-20 of the Darebin City Council COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which includes the Community and Economic Development Program and the Business Grants Program.
- 6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act.

<b>Motion</b>
---------------

**MOVED:** Cr. S Amir  
**SECONDED:** Cr. K Le Cerf

**That Council:**

- 1) Adopts the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 and the draft Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 for the purposes of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- 2) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Special Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020, the Annual Budget 2020–21 (**Appendix A**) and the Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 (**Appendix B**) presented to that meeting.
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- 5) Notes that the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 supports the commencement in 2019-20 of the Darebin City Council COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which includes the Community and Economic Development Program and the Business Grants Program.
- 6) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act.

<b>Amendment</b>
------------------

**MOVED:** Cr. G Greco  
**SECONDED:** Cr. J Williams

That the recommendation be adopted, with the addition at the end of item 1 to read –  
subject to the following changes:

- a) That Council does not increase rates by 2%;
- b) Fees and charges for residents in receipt of the Job Keeper, Job Seeker schemes and concessional card holders not be increased and remain frozen at the 2019-2020 levels in view of the corona virus crisis;
- c) Pensioner rate rebate be increased by \$50 to \$200 to reflect rises in inflation over the last 6 years since the rebate was last increased;



- d) That Council matches dollar for dollar the Special Rates charges applying to the ratepayer of the four Darebin Trader Associations.

The amendment was put and lost.

**LOST**

For – Cr’s Greco, Messina and Williams (3)

Against – Cr’s Rennie, Newton, Amir, Le Cerf and McCarthy (5)

**Amendment**

**MOVED: Cr. G Greco**  
**SECONDED: Cr. J Williams**

That the recommendation be adopted, with the addition at the end of item 1 to read –

subject to the following changes:

- a) That Council set aside from the proposed surplus \$100,000 to establish a subsidised Council run home gardening and maintenance program for low income concession card holders who cannot look after their homes due to ill health or incapacity;
- b) That Council set aside from the proposed surplus \$200,000 to fund a specialist feasibility analysis and options assessment to start to address the toxic water quality of Edwardes Lake;
- c) That Council set aside from the proposed surplus \$300,000 to develop concepts design plans to completely rebuild the Reservoir Leisure Centre with a new 50 meter pool;
- d) That Council uses the balance of the proposed surplus to fund further capital works projects from the Council’s 10 year Capital Works Program that are ‘shovel ready’ and will improve the infrastructure across the city.

The amendment was put and lost

**LOST**

For – Cr’s Greco, and Williams (2)

Against – Cr’s Rennie, Newton, Amir, Le Cerf, Messina and McCarthy (6)

**Amendment**

**MOVED: Cr. S Newton**  
**SECONDED: Cr. T McCarthy**

That the recommendation be adopted, with the additional items 7, 8, 9 and 10 to read –

- 7) Notes that the proposed revenue raised from the 2% rate increase as set by the Victorian Government’s Fair Go Rates System in 2020-21 is forecast to be \$3.62 million and resolves to hypothecate this revenue in full for use as part of the \$11.3 million COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package.

- 8) Notes that in addition to \$11.3 million COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package, should Council's current Working for Victoria submission be successful, this will result in approximately 240 additional staff employed to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in addition to supporting the delivery of Council's recovery package.
- 9) Notes that the estimated in-kind contribution for the Working for Victoria program is \$50,000. This will include management and coordination of staff, OH&S, quality assurance, communication and reporting requirements associated with the program.
- 10) Notes the 2020-21 Annual Budget Report to be tabled at the Special Council Meeting on 15 July 2020 will include an update on the adjusted total financial commitment of the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package. This will also include Council's in-kind contribution.

The amendment was put and carried.

**CARRIED**

For – Cr's Rennie, Newton, Amir, Le Cerf, McCarthy and Messina (6)  
Against - Cr's Greco and Williams (2)

7.43 pm Cr Amir left the meeting

<b>Amendment</b>
------------------

**MOVED:** Cr. J Williams  
**SECONDED:** Cr. G Greco

That the recommendation be adopted, with the addition at the end of item 1 to read –

subject to Council putting \$150,000 towards a report for Reservoir Leisure Centre upgrades of a 50-metre pool and facilities.

The amendment was put and lost

**LOST**

For – Cr's Greco and Williams (2)  
Against – Cr's Rennie, Newton, Le Cerf, McCarthy and Messina (5)

7.47 pm Cr Amir returned to the meeting

**Amendment**

**MOVED:** Cr. T McCarthy  
**SECONDED:** Cr. L Messina

That the recommendation be adopted, with the addition of an item to be inserted as number 2 to read –

- 2) Notes that the draft budget includes running the Solar Saver Program including the Special Charge stream focused on supporting low income households to a value of \$1 million (ex GST). The draft budget also includes the Solar Saver Bulk Buy stream which would be offered to both the broader community and all households and businesses currently on the Solar Saver Program waiting list to support them to install solar PV.

The amendment was put and carried unanimously

**CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY**

For - Cr's Rennie, Newton, Amir, Greco, Le Cerf, McCarthy, Messina and Williams (8)

**Amendment**

**MOVED:** Cr. J Williams  
**SECONDED:** Cr. G Greco

That the recommendation be adopted, with the addition at the end of item 1 to read –  
subject to Council putting \$3,000,000 towards the solar savers program.

The amendment was put and lost

**LOST**

For – Cr's Greco and Williams (2)

Against – Cr's Rennie, Newton, Amir, Le Cerf, McCarthy and Messina (6)

8.13 pm Cr Williams left the meeting.

8.17 pm Cr Williams returned to the meeting.

The substantive motion before Council with amendments was put and carried

**Council Resolution**

**MINUTE NO. 20-054**

**MOVED:** Cr. S Amir  
**SECONDED:** Cr. K Le Cerf

**That Council:**

- 1) Adopts the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 and the draft Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 for the purposes of Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

- 2) Notes that the draft budget includes running the Solar Saver Program including the Special Charge stream focused on supporting low income households to a value of \$1 million (ex GST). The draft budget also includes the Solar Saver Bulk Buy stream which would be offered to both the broader community and all households and businesses currently on the Solar Saver Program waiting list to support them to install solar PV.
- 3) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to give public notice in accordance with sections 129 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to adopt, at a Special Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020, the Annual Budget 2020–21 (**Appendix A**) and the Strategic Resource Plan 2020–24 (**Appendix B**) presented to that meeting.
- 4) Gives public notice in accordance with sections 169 and 223 of the *Local Government Act 1989* of Council's intention to grant, at a Special Council meeting proposed to be held at 6.00pm on Wednesday 15 July 2020, a rate rebate to pensioners in the 2020–21 year in the amount of \$150 to each owner of rateable land who is an 'eligible recipient' within the meaning of the *State Concessions Act 2004*.
- 5) Notes that any person who makes a written submission in relation to the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 or in relation to the granting of a rate rebate to pensioners, and requests to be heard in support of their written submission, will be heard by Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee at a meeting to be held at 6.00pm on Thursday 25 June 2020.
- 6) Notes that the draft Annual Budget 2020–21 supports the commencement in 2019-20 of the Darebin City Council COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience and Recovery Package which includes the Community and Economic Development Program and the Business Grants Program.
- 7) Notes that the proposed revenue raised from the 2% rate increase as set by the Victorian Government's Fair Go Rates System in 2020-21 is forecast to be \$3.62 million and resolves to hypothecate this revenue in full for use as part of the \$11.3 million COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package.
- 8) Notes that in addition to \$11.3 million COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package, should Council's current Working for Victoria submission be successful, this will result in approximately 240 additional staff employed to respond to the impact of COVID-19 in addition to supporting the delivery of Council's recovery package.
- 9) Notes that the estimated in-kind contribution for the Working for Victoria program is \$50,000. This will include management and coordination of staff, OH&S, quality assurance, communication and reporting requirements associated with the program.
- 10) Notes the 2020-21 Annual Budget Report to be tabled at the Special Council Meeting on 15 July 2020 will include an update on the adjusted total financial commitment of the COVID-19 Community and Business Resilience Recovery Package. This will also include Council's in-kind contribution.
- 11) Authorises the Chief Executive Officer to undertake any and all administrative procedures necessary to enable Council to carry out its functions under section 223 of the Act.

**CARRIED**

For – Cr's Rennie, Newton, Amir, Le Cerf, McCarthy and Messina (6)  
Against – Cr's Greco and Williams (2)

## **5. CLOSE OF MEETING**


The meeting closed at 8.19am.

**CITY OF  
DAREBIN**

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