



MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING

HELD ON

MONDAY, 30 JUNE 2014

RELEASED TO THE PUBLIC ON THURSDAY 3 JULY 2014

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,
350 HIGH ST, PRESTON ON MONDAY 30 JUNE 2014**

THE MEETING OPENED AT 7.00 PM

WELCOME

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, in opening the meeting acknowledged the Wurundjeri people, the traditional owners of the land.

1. PRESENT

Councillors

Cr Gaetano Greco (Mayor) (Chairperson)
Cr Vince Fontana
Cr Tim Laurence
Cr Bo Li
Cr Trent McCarthy
Cr Steven Tsitas
Cr Angela Villella
Cr Oliver Walsh (7.02 pm)
Cr Julie Williams (Deputy Mayor)

Municipal Monitor

Peter Lewinsky

Council Officers

Rasiah Dev – Chief Executive
Paul Crapper – Director Corporate and Planning Services
Daniel Freer – Director Culture, Leisure and Works
Katrina Knox – Director Community Development
Steve Hamilton – Director Assets and Business Services
Kerrie Jordan – Chief Financial Officer
Jacinta Stevens – Manager Corporate Governance and Performance
Jody Brodribb – Acting Coordinator Council Business

2. APOLOGIES

3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST

Cr. Villella disclosed a conflict of interest in item 4.1 (Budget Referrals 2014/2015).

Cr. McCarthy disclosed a conflict of interest in Items 4.1 (Budget Referrals 2014/2015)

Cr. Walsh disclosed a conflict of interest in item 4.1 (Budget Referrals 2014/2015).

Cr. Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 4.1 (Budget Referrals 2014/2015).

Cr. Williams disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 4.1 (2014/2015 Proposed Budget).

4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

Cr. Trent McCarthy disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to Playspaces, Minor Neighbourhood Design and Implementation, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest as the proposed funding for the upgrade of a park in his street will have impact on his residential amenity. Cr. McCarthy left the Chambers prior to consideration of that line item at 7.06 pm and returned at 7.08 pm.

Cr. Angela Vilella disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to road resurfacing program in Barron Street, Reservoir, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest as the proposed road resurfacing program in Barron Street Reservoir, will have impact on her residential amenity. Cr. Vilella left the Chambers prior to consideration of that line item at 7.09 pm and returned at 7.11 pm.

Cr. Oliver Walsh disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the road resurfacing program for the Sumner Avenue trail, Northcote, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest as the proposed road resurfacing program is in the vicinity of his residential amenity. Cr. Walsh left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.10 pm and returned at 7.11 pm.

Cr. Tim Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the gambling impact study classifying the type of interest as a direct interest on the basis of a close association in that he has previously publicly demonstrated opposition to more gaming machines in Darebin in the local media. Cr. Laurence left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.13 pm and returned at 7.16 pm.

Cr. Julie Williams disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the gambling impact study on the basis of a conflicting personal interest in that she has previously publicly demonstrated opposition to more gaming machines in Darebin in the local media. Cr. Williams left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.30 pm and returned at 7.16 pm.

During Item 4.2 Cr. Tim Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to sports stadiums for the south of Darebin, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association as he has direct family members who have played, are currently playing and will play sport at the clubs mentioned in submissions during the budget consultation process. The Chairperson, Cr. Greco requested that Cr. Laurence's disclosure be dealt with under the 2014/2015 Budget Referrals process (Item 4.1). Cr. Laurence left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.37 pm and returned at 7.53 pm.

4.1 BUDGET REFERRALS 2014/2015

MINUTE NO. 335

AUTHOR: Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services

SUMMARY:

Funding is included in the 2014/2015 Budget for a diverse range of activities across the municipality. The need for Councillors to disclose a conflict or interest where one exists in relation to any of these projects requires that they be addressed separately as part of the Budget process.

Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process. Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to vote on the 2014/2015 Budget.

This report provides an opportunity for Councillors to disclose any further conflicts in relation to the Budget.

CONSULTATION:

- Chief Executive
- Chief Financial Officer
- Maddocks Lawyers

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Li
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT:

- (1) The Mayor invite Councillors to disclose any conflict of interest in relation to adoption of the 2014/2015 Budget by classifying the type and describing the nature of the interest in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.
- (2) Following each disclosure, Council approve the relevant project and the inclusion of associated funding in the 2014/2015 Budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Trent McCarthy disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to Playspaces, Minor Neighbourhood Design and Implementation, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest as the proposed funding for the upgrade of a park in his street will have impact on his residential amenity. Cr. McCarthy left the Chambers prior to consideration of that line item at 7.06 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. O. Walsh
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT Council adopt into the draft Budget the line item relating to capital works expenditure for Playspaces, Minor Neighbourhood Design and Implementation.

CARRIED

Cr. McCarthy returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above line item – 7.08 pm.

Cr. Angela Vilella disclosed a conflict of interest in the following budget line item classifying the type of interest as a direct interest as the proposed road resurfacing program in Barron Street Reservoir will have impact on her residential amenity. Cr. Vilella left the Chambers prior to consideration of that line item – 7.09 pm.

Cr. Oliver Walsh disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the road resurfacing program for the Sumner Avenue trail, Northcote, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest as the proposed road resurfacing program is in the vicinity of his residential amenity. Cr. Walsh left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.10 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Li
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT Council adopt into the draft Budget the line item relating to the road resurfacing program.

CARRIED

Cr. Vilella and Cr. Walsh returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above line item – 7.10 pm.

Cr. Tim Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the gambling impact study classifying the type of interest as a direct interest on the basis of a close association in that he has previously publicly demonstrated opposition to more gaming machines in Darebin in the local media. Cr. Laurence left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.13 pm.

Cr. Julie Williams disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to the gambling impact study on the basis of a conflicting personal interest in that she has previously publicly demonstrated opposition to more gaming machines in Darebin in the local media. Cr. Williams left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.13 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. B. Li
SECONDED: Cr. A. Vilella

THAT Council adopt into the Budget the line item relating to the study on the impact of the introduction of electronic gaming machines.

CARRIED

Cr. Laurence and Cr. Williams returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above line item – 7.16 pm.

At the commencement of Item 4.2 – 2014/2015 Budget, Cr. Tim Laurence disclosed a potential conflict of interest dependent on a proposed amendment to be made by Cr. McCarthy.

To enable the amendment to be dealt with the Chairperson, Cr. Greco advised that Cr. McCarthy's amendment be dealt with via the Budget Referrals process.

Cr. Laurence disclosed a conflict of interest in relation to netball and basketball clubs in the southern half of the municipality, classifying the type of interest as an indirect interest by close association as he has direct family members who have played, are currently playing and will play sport at the clubs mentioned in submissions during the budget submission process. Cr. Laurence left the Chambers meeting prior to consideration of that line item at 7.37 pm.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. S. Tsitas

- (1) Following a submission by Christine Johns on behalf of local netball clubs, Council includes \$100,000 for the detailed design of an outdoor multi-court netball and basketball facility to be located at a suitable location in the southern half of the municipality. The timeline for detailed design should enable Council to consider construction of the facility in early to mid-2015.
- (2) Council reduces the allocation for the Darebin Intercultural Centre relocation by \$100,000, given recent officer advice regarding this item.
- (3) Council notes that a new netball and basketball facility will assist in meeting increasing demand (including for disability-accessible netball and basketball) and will relieve pressure on the Darebin Community Sports Stadium.
- (4) Council ensures that the Sports and Recreation Victoria Community Facility funding program included in the draft 2014/2015 capital works budget gives priority to improving access and participation for under-represented groups through adapting existing facilities and establishing new facilities.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

Cr. Laurence returned to the meeting at the conclusion of the above line item – 7.53 pm.

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

In developing the 2014/2015 Budget, an extensive range of activities have been considered for funding. Councillors who have a conflict of interest in any items to be considered are required to disclose the type and nature of the interest.

Due to the wide ranging nature of these activities, it is reasonably foreseeable that in any given year, more than half of the Councillors would disclose a conflict of some sort and be required to excuse themselves from the vote on the Budget.

As this would make the adoption of an annual Budget unworkable in practice, the *Local Government Act 1989* provides a mechanism for Councillors to vote on a budget, without compromising their position by being in a position of clear conflict.

The *Local Government Act 1989* provides that if a Budget to be approved by a Council includes funding for a matter in which a Councillor has a conflict of interest, the Councillor is taken not to have a conflict of interest for the purposes of approving the Budget if the Council approved the matter and the proposed funding previously and the Councillor disclosed the nature of the conflict at the time the funding was approved by the Council.

In the event that a Councillor forms the view that despite this process, they are still unable to cast a vote on the passage of the annual Budget, a mechanism exists to declare a 'conflicting personal interest' under section 79B and apply to the Council to be exempted from voting.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

At the Special meeting, the Mayor will invite Councillors to disclose any items contained in the 2014/2015 Budget in which they have a conflict of interest.

Any items proposed for inclusion in the Budget in which a Councillor discloses a conflict of interest are to be dealt with by separate resolution under this 'Budget Referrals' process.

Once all disclosures have been made and the items which are the subject of any disclosure are determined by the Council, all Councillors are able to freely vote on the 2014/2015 Budget.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

Environmental Sustainability

There are no environmental sustainability policy implications arising from this report.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

There are no human rights, equity and inclusion policy implications arising from this report.

Economic Development

Nil

Other

This report has been prepared to address section 79C(2) of the *Local Government Act 1989*, in relation to approval of a Council Budget.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Nil

FUTURE ACTIONS

- Council to consider the Budget 2014/2015

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

- *Local Government Act* 1989

At the commencement of Item 4.2 – 2014/2015 Budget, Cr. Tim Laurence disclosed a potential conflict of interest dependent on a proposed amendment to be made by Cr. McCarthy.

To enable the amendment to be dealt with the Chairperson, Cr. Greco advised that Cr. McCarthy's amendment be dealt with via the Budget Referrals process. Refer Item 4.1 – Budget Referrals 2014/2015.

4.2 2014/2015 BUDGET

MINUTE NO. 336

AUTHOR: Chief Financial Officer

REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Business Services

SUMMARY:

SUMMARY:

The Proposed Budget for the 2014/2015 Financial Year was received at a Meeting of Council on 5 May 2014. 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, thirty written submissions have been received. Nine of the submitters were heard by the Hearing of Submissions Committee on 11 June 2014.

The Proposed Budget received by Council at its meeting on 5 May 2014 has been amended to reflect the announcement in the Federal Government budget that the increase in the superannuation guarantee will remain at 9.5% before increasing to 10% from the 1 July 2018. This amendment does not impact the 2014/2015 budget but does reduce the underlying level of Council expenditure across the 2015/2016 through to 2017/2018 years.

The 2014/15 Proposed Budget presents a financially sound budget that maintains all services from the previous year and proposes a number of new services or significant expansion of existing services. This budget is balanced and community focused. It seeks to maximise meeting multi-pronged community expectations within a modest rate increase of 5%.

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2014/2015, declare the rates for the 2014/2015 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

CONSULTATION:

- Councillor Briefing – 24 June 2014
- Chief Executive Officer
- Directors
- Managers and Coordinators

RECOMMENDATION**THAT:****(1) Adoption of Budget**

- 1.1 The 'Darebin City Council Budget 2014/2015' 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 \$105,335,942 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 2014/2015 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 is not Vacant Business Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.3 or Vacant Retail Land, as described in subparagraph 3.3.6:
- 3.3.1.2 The primary use of which is 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 is not Vacant Residential Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.4, and:
- 3.3.2.2 The primary use of which is residential; 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; and
- 3.3.3.3 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates in the 2014/2015 financial year.

3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

- 3.3.4.1 Vacant Residential Land is any land which is zoned residential under the of Darebin Planning Scheme; and
- 3.3.4.2 on which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
- 3.3.4.3 in respect of which a building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.4 in respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the period since demolition, with the date of demolition taken to be the date on which the building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act* 1993;
or
- 3.3.4.5 on which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
- 3.3.4.6 in respect of which no building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.7 in respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year.

3.3.5 Mixed Use Occupancy Land

- 3.3.5.1 Mixed Use Occupancy Land is any land;

- 3.3.5.2 on which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted for the carrying out of the manufacture or production of, or the trade in, goods and services and is occupied for that purpose; and
- 3.3.5.3 on which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted as a principal place of residence and is occupied as such; and
- 3.3.5.4 both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3 is occupied by the ratepayer; or
- 3.3.5.5 where there is more than one ratepayer, at least one of those ratepayers occupies both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3.

3.3.6 Vacant Retail Land

- 3.3.6.1 Vacant Retail Land is any land which on which a building designed or adapted for retail occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.6.2 in respect of which:
- (a) the building has not been open for trade for a period of 24 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
 - (b) no building permit has been issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year.

- 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	0.431555 (or 0.431555 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Residential Land	0.739809 (or 0.739809 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	0.986412 (or 0.986412 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Mixed Use Occupancy Land	0.345244 (or 0.345244 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Retail Land	0.986412 (or 0.986412 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.246603 (or 0.246603 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 0.215778 per cent (or 0.215778 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 \$130 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 2014/2015 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 | \$46.50 |
| 6.1.1.2 | 120 litre bin (pensioner) | \$27.00 |
| 6.1.1.3 | 240 litre bin | \$88.00 |
| 6.1.1.4 | 240 litre (pensioner) | \$58.50 |
- 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 2014/2015 Financial Year.
- 6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2014/2015 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 2014 |
| Instalment 2 | - | 30 November 2014 |
| Instalment 3 | - | 29 February 2015 |
| Instalment 4 | - | 31 May 2015. |

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 Planning 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 thirty submitters to the Budget,
- Jeff Fiedler, Preston
 - Natasha Kinsman, Northcote
 - Anne Atcheson, Thornbury
 - Roslyn Semler,

- Ray Radford, Friends of Merri Creek
- Lisa Lawrence
- Bonnie Newman
- Camilla Hodgkins, Preston
- Linda Bradburn, Preston
- Lawrie Hanson, Preston
- David Pavone,
- Lucy Foley, Coburg
- Suzanna Shaw, Thornbury
- Andrew Stewardson, Rucker West
- David Redfearn, Friends of Merri Creek, Northcote
- Lisa Horler, Northcote
- Katrina Roberg
- Luisa Macmillan, Merri Creek Management, Brunswick
- Olga Kanitsaki, Preston
- Christine Johns, Parkside Netball Club,
- Eugene Mollica, Oakhill Plenty Rd Business Association, Reservoir
- Peter Durkin, Northcote
- Rallou Lubitz
- Paul Giagnacovo, Regent Tennis Club,
- Mitchell Murphy, Football Federation Victoria,
- Darebin Environmental Reference Group,
- Kathleen Newcastle, Save Darebin Pets,
- Fred Lehmann, Northern Blues Football Club
- Nalliah Suriyakumaran, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council,
- Helen Barclay

of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2014/2015 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2014/2015 Budget is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
- The 2014/2015 Budget raises general rates by increase of 5.0%.
The Council-funded rate rebate to residential pensioner ratepayers will increase to \$130. 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 2014/2015 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

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

SCHEDULE

BUSINESS LAND

Objectives:

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those levied the 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 3.3.1.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The business rate affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where business development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.1.

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 2014/2015 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 residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.2.

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 2014/2015 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. Encourage prompt development of vacant residential land and attract new residents to Darebin and
3. 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 residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.4.

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;
2. Ensure foregone community and economic development resulting from under utilisation of land is minimised; and
3. Encourage the use and occupancy of business land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within Darebin; and
4. 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:

Then vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described under paragraph 3.3.3.

MIXED USE OCCUPANCY 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:

- 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:
 - (a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - (b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - (c) Provision of general support services; and
- Address an apparent inequity for those ratepayers who reside in, and operate a business from, the same building and have previously been required to pay rates in respect of two separate assessments.

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.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

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 described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

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 land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where mixed use development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.5 above.

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 2014/2015 Financial Year.

VACANT RETAIL 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:

- Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance, development and use of the land;
- Ensure that foregone community and economic development resulting from underutilisation of the land is minimised;
- Encourage the use and occupancy of retail land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within the Darebin; and
- 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:
 - (a) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - (b) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - (c) Provision of economic development and general support services.

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.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where retail development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 2014/2015 Financial Year.

MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr. Laurence removed himself as seconder of the motion and Cr. Li took on the seconding rights.

Cr. Laurence proposed to the mover (Cr. Tsitas) and the seconder (Cr. Li) that the following points be added to the motion. This was not accepted by Cr. Tsitas and Cr. Li.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. remove \$250,000 energy efficiency measures and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget, and
 - iv. reduce art in public places by \$75,000; and
 - v. remove the peace poles project of \$10,000 from the 2014/2015 capital works budget;
 - vi. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.
- (12) Council resolve to reduce the debt requirement of \$846,000 for the lighting efficiency project to reflect this reduction in overall capital requirements.
- (13) That council note the improvement to the underlying operation budget surplus of \$31,472 due to the removal of the loan.

CR. LAURENCE PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINTS (11)(i)-(v), (12) AND (13). THE AMENDMENT THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence

SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

(10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- iii. reduce art in public places by \$75,000; and
- iv. remove the peace poles project of \$10,000 from the 2014/2015 capital works budget;
- v. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

(12) Council resolve to reduce the debt requirement of \$846,000 for the lighting efficiency project to reflect this reduction in overall capital requirements.

(13) That council note the improvement to the underlying operation budget surplus of \$31,472 due to the removal of the loan.

Cr. Walsh and Cr. McCarthy requested through the Chairperson, Cr. Greco that items (11) – (13) in the amendment be considered separately.

ADJOURNMENT - 9.05 PM

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco adjourned the meeting for a 2 minute break.

The meeting resumed at 9.07 pm

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. GRECO, ADVISED COUNCILLORS THAT AMENDMENTS (11)(i)-(v), (12) AND (13) WOULD BE SPLIT AND CONSIDERED SEPARATELY.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME POINT (11)(i) OF THE MOTION:

POINT (11)(i)

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.

CARRIED

A Division was called by Cr. T. McCarthy:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. O. Walsh	Cr. B. Li
Cr. V. Fontana	Cr. T. McCarthy
Cr. J. Williams	Cr. A. Villella
Cr. T. Laurence	Cr. G. Greco, Chairperson
Cr. S. Tsitias	

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, declared the motion to be carried.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME POINT (11)(ii) OF THE MOTION:

POINT (11)(ii)

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST:

POINT (11)(iii)

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- iii. reduce art in public places by \$75,000.

The Chairperson declared Point (11)(iii) above to be lost.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST:

POINT (11)(iv)

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- iv. remove the peace poles project of \$10,000 from the 2014/2015 capital works budget.

The Chairperson declared Point (11)(iv) above to be lost.

THE FOLLOWING AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND CARRIED AND BECAME POINT (11)(iii) OF THE MOTION:

POINT (11)(v)

MOVED: Cr. T. Laurence
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

CARRIED

A Division was called by Cr. T. Laurence:

For

Cr. O. Walsh
 Cr. V. Fontana
 Cr. J. Williams
 Cr. B. Li
 Cr. S. Tsitas
 Cr. T. Laurence

Against

Cr. T. McCarthy
 Cr. A. Villella
 Cr. G. Greco, Chairperson

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, declared the motion to be carried.

With leave of the Chairperson, Cr. Greco, Cr. Laurence proposed to remove point (12) and (13) from the amendment. This was agreed to by the seconder, Cr. Walsh.

THE AMENDED MOTION THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

(10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.
- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.
- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

(10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and

- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover (Cr. Tsitas) and seconder (Cr. Li) that the following point be added. This was not accepted due to the amendment being in contravention of Part 30(3) of the Governance Local Law 2013.

- (12) That \$605,000 be added to the Traffic Management line item in the 2014/2015 budget.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
 - i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover (Cr. Tsitas) and seconder (Cr. Li) that the following point be added. This was not accepted due to the amendment being in contravention of Part 30(3) of the Governance Local Law 2013.

- (12) That a new line item be established in the budget entitled LATM (Local Area Traffic Management plans) and that \$605,000 be allocated to that line item.

FURTHER AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

Cr. McCarthy proposed to the mover (Cr. Tsitas) and seconder (Cr. Li) that the following point be added. This was not accepted by the mover.

- (12) Following a submission from Kathleen Chapman of Save Darebin Pets, Council receives a further report on a cost neutral program to support community carers of lost pets. The report should examine whether the costs of such a program can be offset by a reduction in fees being paid to Council's pound provider, due to the welcome volunteer efforts of community carers. The report should also identify the governance arrangements required for such a program to be implemented.

CR. MCCARTHY PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT (12). THE AMENDMENT THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy
SECONDED: Cr. J. Williams

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.
- (12) Following a submission from Kathleen Chapman of Save Darebin Pets, Council receives a further report on a cost neutral program to support community carers of lost pets. The report should examine whether the costs of such a program can be offset by a reduction in fees being paid to Council's pound provider, due to the welcome volunteer efforts of community carers. The report should also identify the governance arrangements required for such a program to be implemented.

WITH LEAVE OF THE CHAIRPERSON, C. GRECO, CR. MCCARTHY WITHDREW HIS PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT.

THE MOTION BEFORE THE CHAIR IS AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and

- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

CR. MCCARTHY PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT (12). THE AMENDMENT THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. T. McCarthy

SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
 - i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.
- (12) That \$605,000 be allocated to the Footpaths and Cycleways line item in the 2014/2015 Budget in line with the Capital Works program and in accordance with adopted strategies.

During Cr. McCarthy’s debate point (12) above, Cr. Laurence made a statement in relation to “listening to false statements”. The Chairperson, Cr. Greco asked Cr. Laurence to retract his statement. Cr. Laurence then stated “*I retract the statement, ‘Do I have to listen to false statements’ because I know I have to*”.

THE CHAIRPERSON, CR. GRECO, CALLED FOR A PROCEDURAL MOTION TO EXTEND THE MEETING BEYOND 10 PM.

EXTENSION OF TIME - 9.59 PM**COUNCIL RESOLUTION**

MOVED: Cr. J. Williams
SECONDED: Cr. A. Villella

THAT the Council meeting continue after 10.00 pm for 30 minutes.

CARRIED

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST.

A Division was called by Cr. T. McCarthy:

<u>For</u>	<u>Against</u>
Cr. T. McCarthy	Cr. J. Williams
Cr. B. Li	Cr. V. Fontana
	Cr. O. Walsh
	Cr. G. Greco
	Cr. S. Tsitas
	Cr. T. Laurence

The Chairperson, Cr. Greco, declared the motion to be lost.

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

(10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and

- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

Cr. Villella proposed to the mover (Cr. Tsitas) that point 12 be added to the motion as follows. This was not accepted by Cr. Tsitas.

- (12) To allocate \$200,000 to the relocation of services including the Intercultural Centre within the central Preston precinct with consideration of the former Preston Girls Secondary College if that site becomes available. Council officers to prepare a report on options for consideration by Council.

CR. VILLELLA PROPOSED AN AMENDMENT TO INCLUDE POINT (12). THE AMENDMENT THEN READ AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDMENT

MOVED: Cr. A. Villella
SECONDED: Cr. T. McCarthy

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:
 - i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.
- (12) To allocate \$200,000 to the relocation of services including the Intercultural Centre within the central Preston precinct with consideration of the former Preston Girls Secondary College if that site becomes available. Council officers to prepare a report on options for consideration by Council.

THE AMENDMENT WAS PUT AND LOST.

THE MOTION BEFORE THE CHAIR IS AS FOLLOWS:

AMENDED MOTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. B. Li

THAT:

As per Officers Recommendation (1) – (9.2) inclusive

(10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of “unrestricted cash/investments” as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

(11) The following capital items in the draft budget be amended:

- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget; and
- iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

Prior to putting the substantive motion to the vote, the Chairperson, Cr. Greco sought a mover and a seconder to amend the surname listed in the report of one of the submitters to the 2014/2015 Budget. This was moved by Cr. McCarthy and seconded by Cr. Tsitas and was voted on as part of the substantive motion.

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

THAT:

(1) Adoption of Budget

- 1.1 The ‘Darebin City Council Budget 2014/2015’ 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 \$105,335,942 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 2014/2015 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 is not Vacant Business Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.3 or Vacant Retail Land, as described in subparagraph 3.3.6:
- 3.3.1.2 The primary use of which is 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 is not Vacant Residential Land as described in subparagraph 3.3.4, and;
- 3.3.2.2 The primary use of which is residential; 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; and
- 3.3.3.3 In respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates in the 2014/2015 financial year.

3.3.4 Vacant Residential Land

- 3.3.4.1 Vacant Residential Land is any land which is zoned residential under the of Darebin Planning Scheme; and
- 3.3.4.2 on which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and

- 3.3.4.3 in respect of which a building permit for demolition was issued under the *Building Act* 1993 in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.4 in respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the Building Act 1993 in the period since demolition, with the date of demolition taken to be the date on which the building permit for demolition was issued under the Building Act 1993;
or
- 3.3.4.5 on which there is no dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation; and
- 3.3.4.6 in respect of which no building permit for demolition was issued under the Building Act 1993 in the 18 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
- 3.3.4.7 in respect of which no building permit for the construction of a new dwelling or other building designed or adapted for permanent occupation has been issued under the Building Act 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year.

3.3.5 Mixed Use Occupancy Land

- 3.3.5.1 Mixed Use Occupancy Land is any land;
- 3.3.5.2 on which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted for the carrying out of the manufacture or production of, or the trade in, goods and services and is occupied for that purpose; and
- 3.3.5.3 on which there is a building, at least part of which is used, designed or adapted as a principal place of residence and is occupied as such; and
- 3.3.5.4 both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3 is occupied by the ratepayer; or
- 3.3.5.5 where there is more than one ratepayer, at least one of those ratepayers occupies both the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.2 and the part of the land which meets the requirements of subparagraph 3.3.5.3.

3.3.6 Vacant Retail Land

- 3.3.6.1 Vacant Retail Land is any land which on which a building designed or adapted for retail occupation is constructed; and
- 3.3.6.2 in respect of which:

- (a) the building has not been open for trade for a period of 24 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year; and
 - (b) no building permit has been issued under the Building Act 1993 in the 12 months prior to the date of declaration of rates for the 2014/2015 financial year.
- 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	0.431555 (or 0.431555 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Residential Land	0.739809 (or 0.739809 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Business Land	0.986412 (or 0.986412 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Mixed Use Occupancy Land	0.345244 (or 0.345244 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Vacant Retail Land	0.986412 (or 0.986412 cents in the dollar of Capital Improved Value).
Other Land (Including Residential Land)	0.246603 (or 0.246603 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 0.215778 per cent (or 0.215778 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 \$130 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 2014/2015 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 | \$46.50 |
| 6.1.1.2 | 120 litre bin (pensioner) | \$27.00 |
| 6.1.1.3 | 240 litre bin | \$88.00 |
| 6.1.1.4 | 240 litre (pensioner) | \$58.50 |
- 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 2014/2015 Financial Year.
- 6.3 It be recorded that no municipal charge be declared in respect of the 2014/2015 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 2014
Instalment 2 - 30 November 2014
Instalment 3 - 29 February 2015
Instalment 4 - 31 May 2015.

(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 Planning Services be authorised to levy and recover the general rates and service charges charged in accordance with the *Local Government Act 1989*.

(9) 9. Submissions

- 9.1 Council advise the thirty submitters to the Budget,
- Jeff Fiedler, Preston
 - Natasha Kinsman, Northcote
 - Anne Atcheson, Thornbury
 - Roslyn Semler,
 - Ray Radford, Friends of Merri Creek
 - Lisa Lawrence
 - Bonnie Newman
 - Camilla Hodgkins, Preston
 - Linda Bradburn, Preston
 - Lawrie Hanson, Preston
 - David Pavone,
 - Lucy Foley, Coburg
 - Suzanna Shaw, Thornbury
 - Andrew Stewardson, Rucker West
 - David Redfearn, Friends of Merri Creek, Northcote
 - Lisa Horler, Northcote
 - Katrina Roberg
 - Luisa Macmillan, Merri Creek Management, Brunswick
 - Olga Kanitsaki, Preston
 - Christine Johns, Parkside Netball Club,
 - Eugene Mollica, Oakhill Plenty Rd Business Association, Reservoir
 - Peter Durkin, Northcote
 - Rallou Lubitz
 - Paul Giagnacovo, Regent Tennis Club,
 - Mitchell Murphy, Football Federation Victoria,
 - Darebin Environmental Reference Group,

- Kathleen Chapman, Save Darebin Pets,
- Fred Lehmann, Northern Blues Football Club,
- Nalliah Suriyakumaran, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council,
- Helen Barclay,

of Council's decision to adopt the attached 2014/2015 Budget and the reasons for the decision as follows:

- The 2014/2015 Budget is financially responsible, supports the goals and strategies included in the 2013-2017 Council Plan, and fits within a longer term framework of financial sustainability.
- The 2014/2015 Budget raises general rates by increase of 5.0%.
The Council-funded rate rebate to residential pensioner ratepayers will increase to \$130. 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 2014/2015 Budget have been determined through a rigorous process of consultation, review and prioritisation.

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

- (10) That Council not fund the energy street lighting program through the agency of borrowings.

That the \$850,000 be funded from a re-allocation of the \$7.8m of "unrestricted cash/investments" as printed on page 53 of the 2014/2015 Budget report.

- (11) The following capital items in the 2014/2015 Budget be amended:
- i. remove \$755,000 from the unspecified \$1 million traffic measures in the 2014/2015 budget and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.
 - ii. remove \$400,000 for possible retrofitting the former RSL building for the intercultural centre and refer it for consideration in the 2015/2016 budget.
 - iii. re-allocate \$550,000 from the 2015/2016 capital plan to the 2014/2015 capital works plan to allow the Ruthven Pavilion project to be completed in 2014/2015.

SCHEDULE

BUSINESS LAND

Objectives:

The objectives of this differential rate, having regard to principles of equity including the capacity to pay of those levied the 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 3.3.1.

Planning Scheme Zoning:

The business rate affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where business development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.1.

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 2014/2015 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 residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.2.

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 2014/2015 Financial Year.

VACANT RESIDENTIAL LAND**Objectives:**

The objectives of this differential rate are to:

4. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land; and
5. Encourage prompt development of vacant residential land and attract new residents to Darebin and
6. 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 residential land affected by this rate is that which is located in any zone where residential development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.4.

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:

5. Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance and development of the land;
6. Ensure foregone community and economic development resulting from under utilisation of land is minimised; and
7. Encourage the use and occupancy of business land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within Darebin; and
8. 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:

Then vacant land affected by this rate is that which is zoned other than residential under the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described under paragraph 3.3.3.

MIXED USE OCCUPANCY 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:

- 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:
 - (d) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - (e) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - (f) Provision of general support services; and
- Address an apparent inequity for those ratepayers who reside in, and operate a business from, the same building and have previously been required to pay rates in respect of two separate assessments.

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.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

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 described in subparagraph 3.3.5 above.

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 land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where mixed use development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in paragraph 3.3.5 above.

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 2014/2015 Financial Year.

VACANT RETAIL 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:

- Promote responsible land management through appropriate maintenance, development and use of the land;
- Ensure that foregone community and economic development resulting from underutilisation of the land is minimised;
- Encourage the use and occupancy of retail land, leading to reinvigoration of trade and commerce within the Darebin; and
- 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:
 - (d) Construction and maintenance of public infrastructure assets;
 - (e) Development and provision of health, environmental and community services; and
 - (f) Provision of economic development and general support services.

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.

Types and Classes:

The types and classes of rateable land within this differential rate are those having the relevant characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 land affected by this rate is that which is in any zone where retail development is permitted by the Darebin Planning Scheme and which displays the characteristics described in subparagraph 3.3.6 above.

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 2014/2015 Financial Year.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

The Darebin City Council Proposed Budget for the 2014/2015 year was received at a Meeting of Council on Monday, 5 May 2014.

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 7 May 2014 with copies in 'Preston Leader' and the 'Northcote Leader' on 14 May 2014.

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 4 June 2014, with Council deciding at the Hearing of Submission meeting on the 11 June 2014 to consider all late written submissions received between 4 June 2014 and 11 June 2014 in relation to the proposed 2014/2015 Budget.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

Rate increase

The Proposed Budget for 2014/2015 is a rate increase of 5.0%.

Proposed 2014/2015 Budget Highlights

After listening to the communities' feedback from the Darebin Community Survey related to traffic congestion and roads being used as 'rat runs', \$1.0 million has been included in the 2014/15 proposed budget to address these concerns. Traffic management issues will be prioritised and actions taken to improve community safety and amenity, ensuring Darebin continues to be the place to live.

The proposed budget includes \$1.0 million towards the infrastructure fund. As proposed in last year's budget, Council will consult the community to determine how the infrastructure fund will be utilised.

The budget focuses on achieving the Council's vision – *Darebin, the place to live* and the priorities set out in the Council Plan 2013-2017. The Council Plan has a strong focus on ensuring fairness and equity in the decisions we make which is particularly relevant to the way Council raises income and allocates expenditure. The principle of fairness has guided the way we have decided to fund the many services Council delivers and the community assets we maintain and upgrade.

Council is continually mindful of our ageing population. The Council-funded rate rebate of \$130 – on top of the existing State Government pensioner concession – will continue. This will help ease the rate burden for over 12,000 pensioner property owners in Darebin.

A key focus in the Budget is the liveability of the City consistent with feedback from the community in the Darebin Community Survey. Funding has been allocated to clean up graffiti, reduce dumped rubbish, upgrade streetscapes around retail centres, activate vacant shops, improve on-road cycling and the safety and connections of our footpaths, plant over 1,500 trees including avenue planting of trees along a number of main streets with an focus on the north of the municipality and improve safety by clearing trees around electricity lines. Planning continues to be a major focus for Council with new funding allocated to the Northland Urban Renewal Precinct and implementing the new residential zones.

Council has elected to borrow \$0.85 million to fund the upgrade of street lighting to energy efficient lights. This project is anticipated to reduce annual greenhouse gas emissions by around 3,800 tonnes.

Darebin is a leader in many areas of service delivery and this budget proposes a number of new initiatives and maintenance of existing high levels of service in the following, well received, areas as shown below:

- Environment in excess of \$4.7 million, including the installation of energy efficient street lighting;
- Economic development approximately \$1.8 million, including additional \$0.09 million for emerging Latrobe Employment Cluster Partnership and Framework planning and Business Development and Employment Plan;
- Community planning in excess of \$3.4 million;
- Library services in excess of \$6.0 million; and
- Aged and disability services in excess of \$7.2 million.

A key focus in the Budget is Council's commitment to community engagement, with a particular focus on upgrading community assets. In 2014/2015 two major projects - redevelopment of Keon Park Community Hub, which will incorporate two kindergarten rooms, two maternal child health rooms and two community rooms; and the Reservoir Library redevelopment – will be completed and operational by June 2015. New funding to upgrade pavilions at Ruthven Reserve and Sullivan Reserve, improve the energy efficiency of council's buildings, provide new public spaces at Preston and Northcote libraries and upgrade Northcote Town Hall Main Hall to attract more performances/functions to the centre have also been included. The Proposed Budget for 2014/2015 was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review and Council endorses the delivery of community outcomes while being fiscally prudent, responsible and delivering a financially sustainable budget.

Submissions

Thirty written submissions have been received in response to the advertised Proposed 2014/2015 Budget and were circulated separately to Councillors for consideration. These were as follows:

	Submitter	Issue
1	Jeff Fiedler	Upgrade of Newman Reserve
2	Natasha Kinsman	Off lead area at All Nations Park
3	Anne Atcheson	Traffic Island on Newman Street

	Submitter	Issue	
4	Roslyn Semler	Implementing the 2011 Natural Heritage Plan	
5	Ray Radford		
6	Lisa Lawrence		
7	Bonnie Newman		
8	Camilla Hodgkins		
9	Linda Bradburn		
10	Lawrie Hanson		
11	David Pavone		
12	Lucy Foley		
13	Suzanna Shaw		
14	Andrew Stewardson		
15	David Redfearn		
16	Lisa Horler		
17	Katrina Roberg		
18	Luisa Macmillan		
19	Olga Kanitsaki		
20	Christine Johns		Women in Sport
21	Eugene Mollica		Works within the Business Retail Zone – Streetscape, Public Facilities and General -Repair/replace old, dirty, damaged, patchy footpaths and curbs -Planting of oak trees -Planting of native garden beds on street corner nature strips -Artistic designed mosaic benches -Street art works -Bike carousel's on each corner with option for retailers to request additional bike carousels -Public rubbish bins and recycle bins -Redesign of parking allocation and solutions to benefit retailers and to help speeding reduction/safe driving -Improved/additional street lighting -Speed reduction zones for peak traffic periods
22	Peter Durkin		Gladstone Ave - Street Greening - Traffic Management
23	Rallou Lubitz	Domestic Animal Management Plan	
24	Paul Giagnacovo	Club House – G.E. Robinson Reserve	

	Submitter	Issue
25	Mitchell Murphy	State Football Centre at Darebin International Sports Centre
26	Darebin Environmental Reference Group	Congratulating the Council on its Proposed Budget
27	Kathleen Chapman	Funding for animal rescue groups
Late submissions		
28	Fred Lehmann	Develop a new community/sporting based facility at Ruthven Reserve, Preston
29	Nalliah Suriyakumaran (Darebin Ethnic Communities Council)	Refurbishment of Preston RSL Building
30	Helen Barclay	Platypus Waterway Health

The following nine (9) community members appeared before a meeting of Council's Hearing of Submissions Committee on 11 June 2014 to be heard in support of their written submissions.

- (1) Jeff Fiedler
- (2) Christine Johns on behalf of the Parkside Netball Club
- (3) Natasha Kinsman
- (4) Adam Cox
- (5) Katrina Roberg
- (6) Kathleen Chapman on behalf of Save Darebin Pets
- (7) Mitchell Murphy on behalf of the Football Federation of Victoria
- (8) Lorry Mark on behalf of the Northern Blues Football Club
- (9) Katrina Brozovic-Basic on behalf of the Darebin Ethnic Communities Council

1: Jeff Fiedler

Synopsis of Submission

The submission requests Council to fund the upgrade of Newman Reserve, Preston.

Comments on Submission:

Newman Reserve has been earmarked for upgrade works in the 2015/2016 financial year, subject to a future budget allocation. Residents are encouraged to develop the Friends of Newman Reserve and once the group is together they can actively participate in the design process.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

2: Natasha Kinsman*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission from Natasha Kinsman requests the fencing of the off lead areas at All Nations Park.

Comments on Submission:

Council has allocated funding for its first fenced dog-off leash area at Kirkwood Reserve. This will serve as a trial to see if it is effective before implementing at other venues.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

2: Anne Atcheson*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission is requesting traffic calming measures for Newman Street including the installation of a traffic island.

Comments on Submission:

The proposal will reduce traffic speeds and discourage the use of local roads by non-local traffic. 44 precincts have been identified with six priority precincts included in the 2014/2015 traffic management program. This has not been identified as a priority precinct for 2014/2015.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

4 - 19: Natural Heritage Plan*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission received from Roslyn Semler and supported by Ray Radford Friends of Merri Creek, Lisa Lawrence, Bonnie Newman, Camilla Hodgkins, Linda Bradburn, Lawrie Hanson, David Pavone, Lucy Foley, Suzanna Shaw, Andrew Stewardson, David Redfearn Friends of Merri Creek, Lisa Horler, Katrina Roberg, Luisa Macmillan, Merri Creek Management and Olga Kanitsaki requests the implementation of the 2011 Natural Heritage Plan.

Comments on Submission:

Funding is currently included in the 2014/2015 proposed budget.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

20: Christine Johns, Parkside Netball Club*Synopsis of Submission:*

The submission requests Council to consider constructing a sports stadium in the south of the municipality that would include a netball court to support women in sport.

Comments on Submission:

A planning study of the future development priorities for major leisure facilities is currently underway and will be continued next financial year. Funding is currently included in the proposed 2014/2015 budget for this study.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

21: Eugene Mollica, Oakhill Plenty Road Business Association*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council upgrades the Business Retail Zone at Oakhill, Plenty Road including:

- Repair/replace old, dirty, damaged, patchy footpaths and curbs;
- Planting of oak trees;
- Planting of native garden beds on street corner nature strips;
- Artistic designed mosaic benches;
- Street art works;
- Bike carousel's on each corner with option for retailers to request additional bike carousels;
- Public rubbish bins and recycle bins;
- Redesign of parking allocation and solutions to benefit retailers and to help speeding reduction/safe driving;
- Improved/additional street lighting; and
- Speed reduction zones for peak traffic periods.

Comments on Submission:

The proposed 2014/2015 budget includes funding for the Tyler/Oakhill/Plenty retail activity centre. Priorities will be identified through a consultative design process and are likely to include the initiatives suggested.

A feasibility study would be required to assess the request for mosaic benches. Council's ability to undertake this study will depend on available budget and the Darebin Arts Strategy.

In relation to the request to install street art works, there is currently no funding available in the Public Art budget for this initiative.

The suggestion to install bike carousels on each corner is not a high priority for Council but could be included in future budgets.

Public rubbish bins and recycle bin numbers and locations will be considered during the design processes and incorporated as required.

Parking management is a balance of all demands, including employees, shoppers, residents, public transport, accessible parking and loading zones, not just retailers. Parking investigations have already been undertaken for this precinct in recent years, and as circumstances have not altered significantly in this time, there is no value in redoing this work at this time.

Street lighting on Plenty Rd needs to meet VicRoads requirements and is already 150W – almost twice as bright as most streets. Lighting on adjoining residential streets will be upgraded to energy efficient lighting over the next two financial years and will be lit to Australian standard requirements. This is expected to provide some improvement in lighting due to the different lamps being installed. Awnings on some businesses can reduce available lighting – and this is a matter for individual properties.

The reduction of speed limits, especially in strip shopping centres, is an ongoing advocacy priority for Darebin Council. Initial conversations have been undertaken with VicRoads indicating that this strip shopping centre would benefit from a 40 km/h strip shopping centre speed limit.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

22: Peter Durkin

Synopsis of Submission

The submission requests Council to upgrade Gladstone Avenue by undertaking street greening and traffic management initiatives.

Comments on Submission:

Street tree removal and replacement are based on several programs including the Prunus removal program and resident requests. The tree planting program is set for the 2014/2015 budget. This could be included in the 2015/2016 year.

Traffic data collected in the street indicate that the speed and volume of traffic is within the acceptable limits for a local road with a 50 km/h speed limit. Council's aim is to introduce 40 km/h speed limits throughout Darebin's local roads and by narrowing the road width and introducing traffic management devices. The current road infrastructure is in good condition, with no major works proposed in the foreseeable future.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

23: Rallou Lubitz

Synopsis of Submission

The submission seeks Council support for initiatives to increase the amount of animal foster carers and adopters available to rescue abandoned animal as part of the Domestic Animal Management Plan.

Comments on Submission:

The initiatives included in the submission are not a priority for 2014/2015 but could be considered in future budgets.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

24: Paul Giagnacovo, Regent Tennis Club*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to upgrade the Regent Tennis Club House.

Comments on Submission:

This pavilion is identified as the third high priority within the Outdoor Sports Venues Infrastructure Plan. The first two priorities are funded in the budget for 2014/2015.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

25: Mitchell Murphy, Football Federation Victoria*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission requests Council to consider including in the 2014/2015 budget, an upgrade to the State Football Centre at Darebin International Sports Centre.

Comments on Submission:

Grant funding to be sought to partly fund this upgrade. If successful can be considered in future years budgets.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

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

The submission congratulates Council on the proposed 2014/2015 budget and the funding provided to support environmental outcomes.

Comments on Submission:

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

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

27: Kathleen Chapman, Save Darebin Pets*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission is seeking funding of \$16,080 to assist animal rescue groups.

Comments on Submission:

The request is are not a priority for 2014/2015 but could be considered in future budgets.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

28: Fred Lehmann*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission seeks Council support to develop a new community and sporting facility at Ruthven Reserve, Preston.

Comments on Submission:

Funding of \$1.5 million is currently included in the 2014/2015 budget with the remainder to be allocated in 2015/2016.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

29: Nalliah Suryikumar, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission comprises a petition to refurbish the Preston RSL building for housing of the Intercultural Centre.

Comments on Submission:

Investigation of works to the RSL building have already been undertaken. Due to a number of issues it is more cost effective to demolish the existing building rather than refurbish. The RSL building is not the preferred site for a new intercultural centre as it is earmarked to become part of the larger Preston Central Precinct.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

30: Helen Barclay*Synopsis of Submission*

The submission seeks Councils support to establish a Platypus Waterway Health initiative.

Comments on Submission:

Darebin has just commenced a comprehensive review of the sustainable water strategy which will look at projects such as this one in terms of community engagement in water issues. This project could be considered as part of the water strategy review for future funding but should not pre-empt the strategic review.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from this submission.

POLICY IMPLICATIONS

The 2014/2015 Proposed Budget has been prepared to give financial effect in the coming year to the objectives set out in the proposed Council Plan 2013-2017 and Strategic Resource Plan.

Environmental Sustainability

The 2014/2015 Proposed 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 enhance Council's active work with the community to reduce greenhouse gas emissions.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The Council Plan 2013-2017 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.

Council has proposed to maintain the \$130 rate rebate provided to over 12,000 eligible Darebin pensioners and free animal registration of one cat or dog for eligible pensioners.

Economic Development

The 2014/2015 Proposed Budget includes approximately \$1.8 million for Economic Development. Economic development activities proposed for 2014/2015 include emerging Latrobe National Employment Cluster Partnership and Framework planning and Business Development and Employment Plan, Preston Junction Urban renewal project, Green Business Expo and continuing the rollout of Wi-Fi in retail strips, activation of vacant shops, working with local trader and business associations to help them improve business performance, and with neighbouring municipalities to develop and implement regional economic growth.

Other

The proposed budget is prepared in the context of key principles in the Council's Strategic Resource Plan that underpin 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.

In addition the Proposed Budget's preparation reflects the principles of Council's Charter of Good Governance:

- Transparency
- Accountability

- Equity and Inclusion
- Effectiveness and Efficiency
- Community Engagement
- Ethical Decision Making

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

All matters raised in this report which have a financial implication have been reflected in the 2014/2015 Budget.

CONCLUSION

It is recommended that Council adopt the attached Budget 2014/2015, and declare the rates for the 2014/2015 Financial Year and that public notice be given of the decision in accordance with the Act.

This Budget was developed through a rigorous process of consultation and review and Council endorses the delivery of community outcomes while delivering a fiscally prudent, responsible and financially sustainable budget.

No changes are recommended to the 2014/2015 budget arising from the thirty submissions received.

FUTURE ACTIONS

Following adoption of the final 2014/2015 Budget, the following actions are required:

- Advise the submitters of Council's decision in relation to the 2014/2015 Budget and the reasons for the decision.
- Give public notice of adoption of the 2014/2015 Budget
- Make a copy of the 2014/2015 Budget available for inspection by the public at Darebin Civic Centre, Customer Service Centres and Council's website.
- Submit a copy of the 2014/2015 Budget to the Minister for Local Government.
- Forward rate notices for 2014/2015.

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 - 5 May 2014
- Hearing of Submissions Committee Minutes - 11 June 2014
- Submissions received from Jeff Fiedler, Preston; Natasha Kinsman, Northcote; Anne Atcheson, Thornbury; Roslyn Semler; Ray Radford, Friends of Merri Creek; Lisa Lawrence; Bonnie Newman; Camilla Hodgkins, Preston; Linda Bradburn, Preston; Lawrie Hanson, Preston; David Pavone; Lucy Foley, Coburg; Suzanna Shaw, Thornbury; Andrew Stewardson, Rucker West; David Redfearn, Friends of Merri Creek, Northcote; Lisa Horler, Northcote; Katrina Roberg; Luisa Macmillan, Merri Creek Management, Brunswick; Olga Kanitsaki, Preston; Christine Johns, Parkside Netball Club; Eugene Mollica, Oakhill Plenty Rd Business Association, Reservoir; Peter Durkin, Northcote; Rallou Lubitz; Paul Giagnacovo, Regent Tennis Club; Mitchell Murphy, Football Federation Victoria; Darebin Environmental Reference Group; Kathleen Newcastle, Save Darebin Pets; Fred Lehmann, Northern Blues Football Club; Nalliah Suriyakumaran, Darebin Ethnic Communities Council; Helen Barclay

Cr. Julie Williams temporarily left the meeting during discussion of this item at 9.03 pm and returned at 9.07 pm.

Jacinta Stevens, Director Corporate Governance and Performance temporarily left the meeting during discussion of this item at 9.11 pm and returned at 9.14 pm.

Peter Lewinsky, Monitor, left the meeting at 10.25 pm.

4.3 STRATEGIC RESOURCE PLAN 2014 - 2018**MINUTE NO. 337****AUTHOR: Chief Financial Officer****REVIEWED BY: Director Corporate and Planning Services****SUMMARY:**

The *Local Government Act* 1989 (the Act) requires that Councils review and adopt a Strategic Resource Plan not later than 30 June each year. The Strategic Resource Plan outlines the resources required to achieve the strategic objectives articulated in the Council Plan and its format and contents are governed by section 126 of the Act.

The Act further requires that the Strategic Resource Plan be included in the Council Plan adopted by Council under section 125 of the Act. This same section provides that, subject to certain provisions, a Council may make any adjustment it considers necessary to the Council Plan.

This report presents the Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 and recommends that Council adopt it both as its Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 and as part of its Council Plan 2013-2017.

CONSULTATION:

Manager Corporate Governance and Performance

COUNCIL RESOLUTION

MOVED: Cr. S. Tsitas
SECONDED: Cr. O. Walsh

THAT:

- (1) Council adopt the Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 (**Appendix A**) as its Strategic Resource Plan for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018.
- (2) Council adjust the Council Plan 2013-2017 by replacing the Strategic Resource Plan 2013-2017 with the Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 (**Appendix A**).
- (3) Council notify the Minister for Local Government of the adjustment to the Council Plan within 30 days, as required by section 125(10) of the *Local Government Act* 1989.
- (4) Council make the adjusted Council Plan (including the Strategic Resource Plan) available to the public at its Customer Service Centres and on its website.

CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY

REPORT

INTRODUCTION AND BACKGROUND

On 19 May 2014, Council noted a report presenting the outcomes of its review of *Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017* and confirmed that the document did not require any adjustment. In that report, it was identified that a review of the Strategic Resource Plan (part of the Council Plan) would be required in May 2014, both to reflect changes to Council's financial position and to retain a four year outlook in its financial planning.

That review has been carried out in conjunction with the development of the City of Darebin 2014/2015 Proposed Budget, and has resulted in a new Strategic Resource Plan, for the period 1 July 2014 to 30 June 2018.

ISSUES AND DISCUSSION

The attached Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 (**Appendix A**) is derived from the Annual Budget discussions and contains in respect of the next four financial years:

- The standard statements describing the required financial resources in the form and containing the information required by the Local Government (Finance and Reporting) Regulations 2004.
- Statements describing the required non-financial resources, including human resources.

The Strategic Resource Plan assists Council in adopting a budget within a longer term prudent financial framework. The key objective of the Strategic Resource Plan is financial sustainability in the medium to long term, whilst still achieving the Council's strategic objectives as specified in the Council Plan. The Strategic Resource Plan has been updated through a rigorous process, using the current financial position as a base and factoring in assumptions regarding future increases in income and expenditure for each program and service provided by Council.

The table below provides a summary of the key financial objectives which underpin the Strategic Resource Plan and the outcomes of the Strategic Resource Plan in response to each of these objectives.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
Maintain the scope and standard of ongoing services provided to the Darebin community and be flexible to address changing community needs with innovative services and facilities.	Service levels have been maintained throughout the four year period and a number of new initiatives have been included within the 2014/2015 year.

Strategic Resource Plan objective	Strategic Resource Plan outcomes
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.	Capital Works funding over the four year period totals \$116.66 million and exceeds asset depreciation in each year. The proportion of renewal expenditure is stable across the plan period. Capital works is higher in 2014/2015 due to the impact of capital works carried forward from the previous financial year.
Ensure that Council generates sufficient ongoing income to fund its services and capital works commitments over the longer term.	Operating surpluses have been achieved in each year of the Strategic Resource Plan.
Ensure Council holds sufficient cash and other assets in order to meet payment obligations to suppliers and employees.	Cash and investments are forecast to increase from \$29.04 million in 2014/2015 to \$30.83 million by 2017/2018.

It is recommended Council replace the existing the Strategic Resource Plan with the attached Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 (**Appendix A**). If this change is made, the City of Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017 will be made up of the following two documents:

- Darebin Council Plan 2013-2017
- Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018.

Environmental Sustainability

The proposed changes to the Strategic Resource Plan do not reflect a change in Council's policy objectives, nor do they substantially alter the funding available for Council's environmental programs and initiatives.

Human Rights, Equity and Inclusion

The proposed changes to the Strategic Resource Plan do not reflect a change in Council's policy objectives, nor do they substantially alter the funding available for Council's programs and initiatives designed to foster social inclusion and diversity.

Economic Development

The proposed changes to the Strategic Resource Plan do not reflect a change in Council's policy objectives, nor do they substantially alter the funding available for Council's economic development programs and initiatives.

Other

The proposed changes to the Strategic Resource Plan do not reflect a change in Council's policy objectives. Rather, they reflect changes to Council's financial position and are required to retain a four year outlook in financial planning.

FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

Given the Strategic Resource Plan is published and distributed electronically in conjunction with Council's Annual Budget, the costs associated with the proposed adjustment are relatively minor.

The Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 focuses on achieving the Council's vision – *Darebin, the place to live*, whilst being fiscally prudent and responsible.

The 2014-2018 Strategic Resource Plan achieves financial sustainability by adhering to the principles stated in the SRP and through a rigorous annual process of consultation and review.

FUTURE ACTIONS

- The Minister for Local Government will be notified of Council's adjustment to the Council Plan within 30 days of the Council resolution.
- The new Strategic Resource Plan and amended Council Plan will be made available to the public on Council's website and at its Customer Service Centres.
- If the public exhibition and consultation process associated with Council's Annual Budget necessitates further changes to the Strategic Resource Plan, these changes will be presented to Council in June 2015.

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

- Strategic Resource Plan 2014-2018 (**Appendix A**)
- Council Plan 2013-2017
- Council Minutes – 19 May 2014

5. CLOSE OF MEETING

The meeting closed at 10.30 pm.