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Proposal to Declare and Levy a Special Charge for the Solar Saver Scheme.

In accordance with the provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989 (Act)* notice is hereby given that the Darebin City Council (Council) at its meeting on 30 April 2018 resolved to give notice of its intention to declare and levy a special charge under Section 163 of the Act. The special charge is for the purposes of defraying the expenses incurred by Council relating to the provision of solar energy systems on residential properties participating in the Solar Saver scheme (Scheme). The Scheme arises out of Council's function of advocating and promoting proposals which are in the best interests of the community and ensuring the peace, order and good government of Council's municipal district.

A copy of the proposed declaration, known as '*Proposed Special Charge Scheme for Solar Saver Program*', is available for inspection at Council's Offices at 274 Gower Street, Preston, during normal office hours until 7 June 2018.

The special charge is to be declared in relation to the properties listed in Appendix B to the report titled '*Proposed Special Charge Scheme for Solar Saver Program*', considered by Council at its ordinary meeting on 30 April 2018. A copy of the Appendix forms part of the documents available for inspection at Council's Offices.

The Scheme has been prepared on the basis that the participating property owners will receive 100% of the benefit. The total cost of the scheme is \$2,510,483.37 and a special charge will be imposed on each property participating in the Scheme in respect of which a Householder Agreement has been executed applies, for a period of 10 years from February 2019. The special charge will be calculated by reference to the size of the solar energy system being installed and the particular costs of installation at each property.

The special charge will be levied by notice forwarded to the property owner(s). Council will, by request, allow payment of the special charge by either full payment in a single lump sum or by quarterly instalments over 10 years, or by other approved arrangements; with the first payment due from February 2019.

Any person may make a submission under Section 223 of the Act in relation to Council's proposal to declare the special charge under Section 163 of the Act. Any person who has made a written submission may also request that they (or a person acting on their behalf) be heard in support of their written submission. Such persons should indicate in their submission if they wish to be heard by Council. Council will consider and, if requested, hear support for all written submissions received before **5pm on Thursday 7 June 2018**.

Submissions should be addressed to:

Sally Moxham
Manager Environment and Sustainable Transport
Darebin City Council
PO Box 91 PRESTON VIC 3072

In addition to the right to make a submission, participating property owners have the right to object to the proposed declaration in accordance with section 163B of the Act. Such persons may object in writing to Council by **5pm on Thursday 7 June 2018** by sending their objection to the above address. If participating property owners simply wish to withdraw from the program, they can do so by informing Council in writing.

Submissions must clearly state whether the author wishes to be heard by Council, and whether the submission is a submission of support or comment only, or a formal objection to the scheme as proposed.

It is proposed that Council will consider this matter at its Ordinary Meeting of 23 July 2018. Further information on this Scheme may be obtained from **Gavin Mountjoy**, Coordinator Energy and Adaptation on **8470 8535**.

Sue Wilkinson
Chief Executive Officer