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# MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL COUNCIL MEETING

Held on Monday 12 February 2018

Released to the public on Thursday 15 February 2018

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**MINUTES OF THE SPECIAL MEETING OF THE  
DAREBIN CITY COUNCIL HELD AT DAREBIN CIVIC CENTRE,  
350 HIGH STREET PRESTON ON MONDAY 12 FEBRUARY 2018**

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**THE MEETING OPENED AT 5.30PM**

**Public Notice – Special Council Meeting 12 February 2018**

*Insufficient lead time was available to provide the required minimum 7 days public notice for this meeting as per section 89 (4) of the Local Government Act 1989. Public notice was given in 'The Age' newspaper on 7 February 2018 and published on Council's website on 7 February 2018.*

*Notwithstanding the above requirement involving at least 7 days public notice, section 89 (4A) of the Act provides that if urgent or extraordinary circumstances prevent compliance with this requirement, Council must give public notice as is practicable and specify the urgent or extraordinary circumstances which prevented compliance.*

*The urgency is due to the need to resolve a formal position with regard to these matters.*

**WELCOME**

The Chairperson, Mayor, Cr. Le Cerf opened the meeting with the following statement:

*"I would like to acknowledge the traditional owners and custodians of the land on which we stand here today, the Wurundjeri people, and pay my respects to their Elders, past and present, as well as to Elders from other communities who may be with us today."*

**1. PRESENT**

**Councillors**

Cr. Kim Le Cerf (Mayor) (Chairperson)

Cr. Steph Amir

Cr. Gaetano Greco

Cr. Trent McCarthy

Cr. Lina Messina (Deputy Mayor)

Cr. Susanne Newton

Cr. Susan Rennie

Cr. Julie Williams – 5.36pm

**Council Officers**

Sue Wilkinson - Chief Executive Officer

Vito Albicini - General Manager Operations and Capital

Allan Cochrane - Acting Director Corporate Services

Vicky Guglielmo - Acting Director Community Development

John Hicks - Acting Director Civic Governance and Compliance

Jody Brodribb – Acting Coordinator Council Business

Dave Bell - Senior Media Advisor

## **2. APOLOGIES**

Cr. Tim Laurence is on an approved leave of absence.

An apology was lodged for the initial absence of Cr. Julie Williams.

## **3. DISCLOSURES OF CONFLICTS OF INTEREST**

Cr. Susan Rennie disclosed a conflict of interest in Item 4.2 - Preliminary Social and Economic Impact Assessment to Support an Objection to the Gaming Component of Planning Permit by Darebin RSL Sub Branch Inc.

## 4. CONSIDERATION OF REPORTS

### 4.1 DRAFT DAREBIN ELECTRONIC GAMING MACHINE POLICY 2018-2022

**Author:** Coordinator Equity and Diversity

**Reviewed By:** Acting Director Community Development

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#### Report Background

This report seeks Council's in principle endorsement of the Draft Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 and endorsement to commence the process for public comment and community feedback on the Draft Policy given critical time frames in relation to a current application by the Darebin RSL Sub-Branch to increase the number of gaming machines and the need for a strengthened policy position in lodging objection.

#### Previous Council Resolution

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

#### Previous Briefing(s)

5 February 2018

#### Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy

Goal 5 - Involving our diverse community

Darebin Council Electronic Gaming Machine Policy 2016-2019

#### Summary

An updated Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 (Draft) has been developed to build on the work of the previous policy and to elevate and strengthen Council's investment and effort in response to the changing political, legislative and regulatory environment.

The policy framework is underpinned by those strategies where Council can exert its influence:

1. Urgent structural and systems reform;
2. Addressing the dangers of poker machine design; and
3. Population based harm minimisation strategies.

Importantly, the Draft Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 takes a stronger human rights approach.

There are now critical timeframes that have emerged as a result of the Darebin RSL sub branch application to increase the number of EGMs with Officers seeking:

- In principle endorsement of the Draft Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 (Draft);
  - Endorsement of the draft policy for public comment and community feedback.
-

**Council Resolution**

**MINUTE NO. 18-060**

**MOVED: Cr. S Rennie**  
**SECONDED: Cr. G Greco**

**That Council:**

- (1) Provides in principle endorsement of the Draft Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022.
- (2) Provides endorsement of the Draft Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 for public comment and community feedback.

**CARRIED**

*Cr. Susan Rennie declared a conflict of interest in the following item describing the conflict as an indirect conflict as a result of a conflicting duty due to her work at the VLGA advising residents in relation to this matter.*

*Cr. Rennie left the Chamber prior to discussion of the item at 5.41pm.*

#### **4.2 PRELIMINARY SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC IMPACT ASSESSMENT TO SUPPORT AN OBJECTION TO THE GAMING COMPONENT OF PLANNING PERMIT BY DAREBIN RSL SUB BRANCH INC.**

**Author:** Coordinator Equity and Diversity

**Reviewed By:** Acting Director Community Development

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### **Report Background**

On 8 January 2018, Darebin Council received notice from the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) in relation to the Darebin RSL Sub Branch planning permit application to increase the number of gaming machines.

Section 3.3.6 of the *Gambling Regulation Act 2003* enables local authorities to make a submission to the Commission that addresses the economic and social impact of a proposal on the wellbeing of the community of the municipal district that the premises are located within. This assessment may take into account the impact of the proposal on surrounding municipal districts.

Officers have now prepared a Draft Social and Economic Impact Assessment for lodgement with the VCGLR by 6 March 2018 and following notification of intention to lodge by 11 February 2017.

### **Previous Council Resolution**

This matter is not the subject of a previous Council resolution.

### **Previous Briefing(s)**

This matter has not previously been to a Councillor Briefing.

### **Council Plan Goal/Endorsed Strategy**

Goal 5 - Involving our diverse community

Darebin Electronic Gambling Machine Policy 2018 – 2022 (Draft)

### **Summary**

A preliminary social and economic impact assessment has been developed to provide Council with an overview of the key points and tone of the submission to be lodged with the Victorian Commission for Gambling and Liquor Regulation (VCGLR) objecting to gambling components of the planning permit by the Darebin RSL Sub Branch 404 Bell Street Preston.

The preliminary draft has been prepared by Council officers with the following sections pending at time of writing:

- a. Report on outcomes of a community survey and engagement process; and
-

- b. Evidence of gambling harm from local welfare agencies and Gamblers' Help Northern

Legal and expert advice has been obtained in preparation of the submission and adjoining Councils of Yarra, Moreland, Whittlesea and Banyule have been notified with option to provide a letter of support to the Darebin submission or to lodge their own submission to the VCGLR.

<b>Council Resolution</b>
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**MINUTE NO. 18-061**

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

**That** Council:

- (1) Endorses the draft Social and Economic Impact Assessment Submission noting pending actions including expert peer review.
- (2) Endorses lodgement of Council Submission to the VCGLR by the close date, 6 March 2018.

**CARRIED**

**5. CLOSE OF MEETING**

The meeting closed at 5.45pm.