



Hawkesbury City Council

special
meeting
business
paper

date of meeting: 25 June 2007

location: council chambers

time: 7.00 p.m.



mission
statement

***“To create opportunities
for a variety of work
and lifestyle choices
in a healthy, natural
environment”***

How Council Operates

Hawkesbury City Council supports and encourages the involvement and participation of local residents in issues that affect the City.

The 12 Councillors who represent Hawkesbury City Council are elected at Local Government elections held every four years. Voting at these elections is compulsory for residents who are aged 18 years and over and who reside permanently in the City.

Ordinary Meetings of Council are held on the second Tuesday of each month, except January, and the last Tuesday of each month, except December. The meetings start at 5:00pm with a break from 7:00pm to 7:30pm and are scheduled to conclude by 11:00pm. These meetings are open to the public.

When a Special Meeting of Council is held it will usually start at 7:00pm. These meetings are also open to the public.

Meeting Procedure

The Mayor is Chairperson of the meeting.

The business paper contains the agenda and information on the issues to be dealt with at the meeting. Matters before the Council will be dealt with by an exception process. This involves Councillors advising the General Manager at least two hours before the meeting of those matters they wish to discuss. A list will then be prepared of all matters to be discussed and this will be publicly displayed in the Chambers. At the appropriate stage of the meeting, the Chairperson will move for all those matters not listed for discussion to be adopted. The meeting then will proceed to deal with each item listed for discussion and decision.

Public Participation

Members of the public can request to speak about a matter raised in the business paper for the Council meeting. You must register to speak prior to 3:00pm on the day of the meeting by contacting Council. You will need to complete an application form and lodge it with the General Manager by this time, where possible. The application form is available on the Council's website, from reception, at the meeting, by contacting the Manager Corporate Services and Governance on 4560 4426 or by email at lmifsud@hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

The Mayor will invite interested persons to address the Council when the matter is being considered. Speakers have a maximum of five minutes to present their views. If there are a large number of responses in a matter, they may be asked to organise for three representatives to address the Council.

A Point of Interest

Voting on matters for consideration is operated electronically. Councillors have in front of them both a "Yes" and a "No" button with which they cast their vote. The results of the vote are displayed on the electronic voting board above the Minute Clerk. This was an innovation in Australian Local Government pioneered by Hawkesbury City Council.

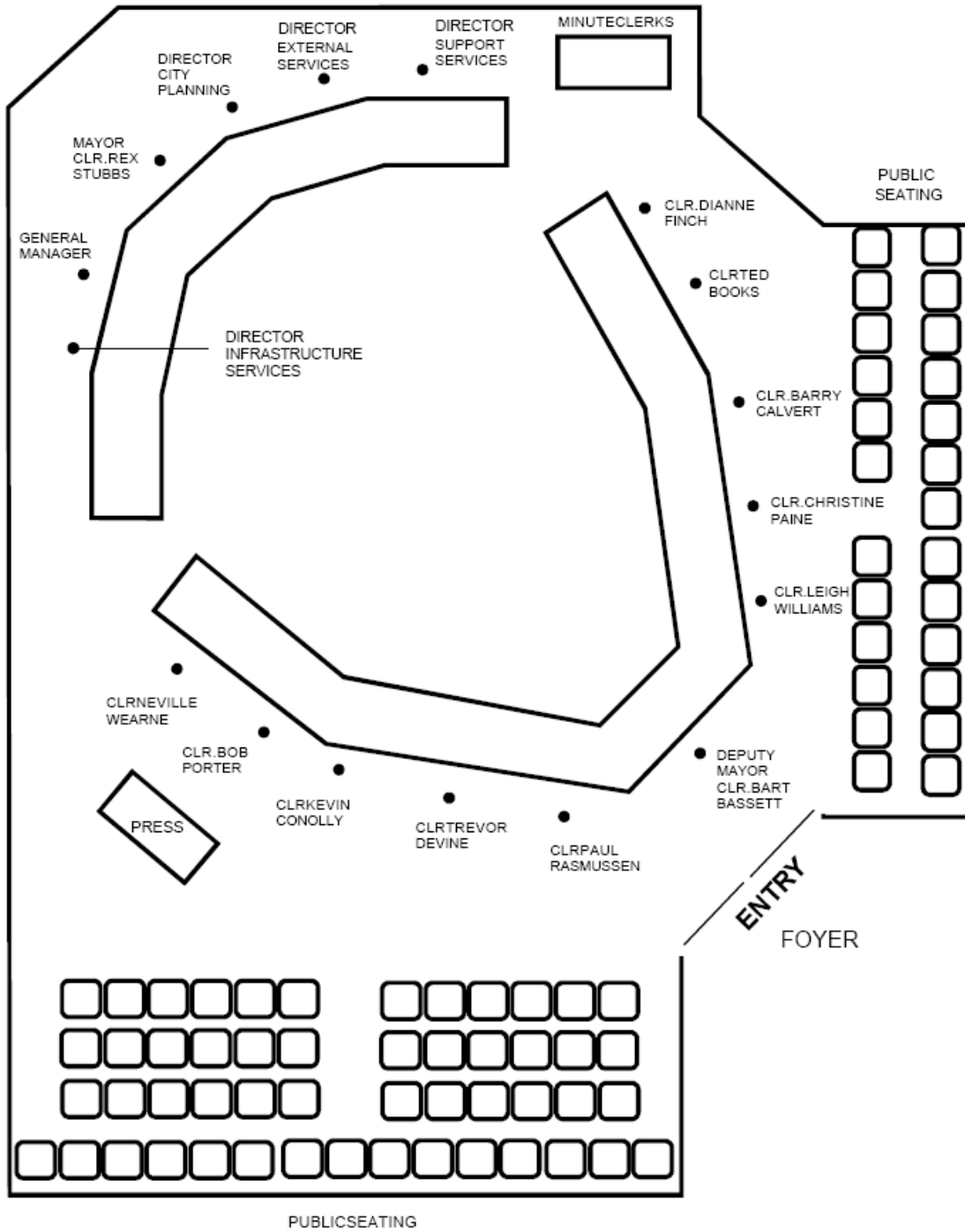
Website

Business Papers can be viewed on Council's website from noon on the Friday before each meeting. The website address is www.hawkesbury.nsw.gov.au.

Further Information

A guide to Council Meetings is available on the Council's website. If you require further information about meetings of Council, please contact the Manager, Corporate Services and Governance on, telephone 02 4560 4426.

council chambers



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- **DECLARATION OF INTERESTS**
- **SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination**

Acting General Manager

Confidential Reports

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SECTION 4 - Reports for Determination

ACTING GENERAL MANAGER

Item: 107 **AGM - Adoption of the 2007/2008 Management Plan and Making and Levying of Rates and Fixing of Charges for the Period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 - (95496, 96332, 107)**

Previous Item: 65, Special (17 April 2007)

REPORT:

At the Special Meeting of Council held on 17 April 2007 consideration was given to a report by the General Manager in relation to the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan and it was subsequently resolved as follows:

"That:

1. *The General Manager's report regarding the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan and Budget be received.*
2. *The 2007/2008 draft Management Plan and Budget, incorporating Council's Revenue Pricing Policy, be amended as follows:*
 - a) *Hawkesbury City Council's Sewage Management Facilities program be operated on the basis of an Approval to Operate (incl. Site inspection) fee of \$74.00 per inspection.*
 - b) *The provision for Section 356 Expenditure within Component 12 – Community Administration be increased by \$13,400 with the reduction in this program being in respect of financial assistance for the Women's Cottage in respect of a rental subsidy in the amount of \$6,600.*
 - c) *The provision for Section 356 Expenditure in respect of Council's contribution to Sister City activities within Component 40 – Commercial Response Unit be increased by \$10,000.*
 - d) *The provision for Fire Control Operating Expenses (Rural Fire Service Discretionary Expenditure) Within Component 66 – Fire Control be increased by \$70,000.*
 - e) *The proposal for a reduction in overtime by the introduction of a requirement for employees to start and finish at an appropriate depot not be proceeded with and increases as appropriate in the total amount of \$150,000 be made to appropriate components within the draft budget.*
 - f) *The provision for Contributions to Outside Bodies, in respect of Council's contribution to the Hawkesbury Sports Council, within Component 50 – Parks be increased by \$75,000.*
3. *Funding to increase the various allocations referred to in 2 above be allocated from the following sources:*
 - a) *Reduction of the proposed budget surplus by \$53,792.*
 - b) *Reduction of \$100,000 from funds to be transferred to the Employee Entitlements Reserve from the superannuation "contributions holiday" in respect of the Retirement & Defined Benefits Schemes.*
 - c) *Reduction in relevant allocations of \$101,778 in respect of proposed new staff positions/additional hours for positions within the External Services Directorate as detailed in the General Manager's report.*

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- d) *Reduction in the expense allocation for contributions to outside bodies (Hawkesbury River County Council) within Component 36 – Pollution Control of \$17,450 in order to reflect the recently advised proposed contribution to this body of \$125,000 in 2007/2008.*
- e) *Utilisation of \$162,400 from Council's existing Contingency Reserve.*
4. *Council delegate management responsibility for the operation of the Richmond Occasional Child Care Centre and Family Day Care to Peppercorn Services Inc.*
5. *Subject to the amendments detailed above, the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan, incorporating Council's Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Budget Estimates and Revenue Pricing Policy, based upon the Special Variation Budget providing for a rate increase of 9.5%, subject to Ministerial approval, be adopted for exhibition purposes and be advertised in accordance with Section 405 of the Local Government Act 1993, it being noted that Council has previously resolved not to continue the Environmental Levy resulting in an effective reduction in rates of approximately 4.7%.*
6. *An appropriate submission be made to the Minister for Local Government for a Special Rate Variation under Section 508(2) of the Local Government Act 1993 of 9.5% (including rate pegging), together with a corresponding increase in minimum rates, for the 2007/2008 financial year and on a subsequent ongoing basis.*
7. *A Special Meeting of Council be held on Monday, 25 June 2007 to consider any public submissions received in respect of the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan and Budget and to consider the adoption of these documents and to make and fix rates and charges for the year ended 30 June 2008.*
8. *Prior to consideration of Council's 2008/2009 Draft Management Plan and Budget a report be submitted for Council's consideration regarding possible alterations to the rates levied by Council, including subsequent effects, by the introduction of differing levels of rates for the varying categories and sub-categories of properties within Council's rating system as allowed under the Local Government Act 1993 and/or the introduction of a base amount of a rate and ad valorem amount, as also allowed under the Act, so as to achieve a more equitable distribution of rating charges across the City area.*
9. *The following issues be addressed in respect of the indicated years within Council's 10 year Base Budget Works Program:*
 - a) *The proposed allocation in 2009/2010 for Art Gallery "Artefact (3D) Storage System" be transferred to the Special Rate Variation Works Program with the funds proposed for this purpose (\$200,000) being allocated to road works within the Base Budget Works Program.*
 - b) *The proposed allocation of \$800,000 for expansion of the library in 2014/2015 being transferred to road works and/or community buildings."*

Variation to General Income for 2007/2008, Minimum Rates and Interest Rates

The Minister for Local Government announced on 16 May 2007 a 3.4% increase in terms of section 506 of the *Local Government Act 1993* for the rating year commencing 1 July 2007. The Minister also announced the statutory maximum for minimum rates be increased by 3.4% to \$392.00.

The Minister for Local Government announced on 31 May 2007 the maximum rate of interest payable on overdue rates and charges for the 2007/2008 rating year will be 10% in terms of section 566(3) of the *Local Government Act 1993*.

The variation of 0.15% between the anticipated and actual rate pegging increases represents an additional amount of approximately \$30,000 being available for ordinary purposes. Following adjustments as a result

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of Council's resolution adopting the draft Budget and other minor adjustments a balance budget has been achieved including the transfer of an amount of approximately \$50,000 to the Contingency Reserve.

As indicated previously to Council the balancing of the 2007/2008 draft Budget has been a very difficult process. Every endeavour has been made to accurately predict income and expenditure items and as some of these have potential to vary it is considered that the Contingency Reserve may be a key element in maintaining a balance budget during the coming year should any unexpected variations occur.

Amendments and Funding Sources

In accordance with Council's resolution for parts 2 and 3, amendments were been made to the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan prior to the document being placed on public exhibition.

Part 8 of Council's Resolution

An appropriate report will be submitted to Council in due course, regarding possible alterations to the rates levied by Council.

Part 9 of Council's Resolution

In accordance with Council's resolution for part 9, amendments have been made to the Works Program within the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan

Public Submissions

The exhibition period for Council's 2007/2008 draft Management Plan concluded on 22 May 2007 and prior to, during and after closure to date a total of 16 submissions concerning the Plan have been received. Details of the respondents and a summary of the issues raised in the submissions are provided below.

Respondents

1. Mr & Mrs D Bathersby
2. Dr J Bathgate
3. Mr & Mrs S Brunt
4. Mr G Chenery
5. Mrs L Ezzy
6. Mr M Fenn
7. Mrs L Grant
8. Mrs L Hernando
9. Mr R & Mrs M James
10. Mr I McCabe
11. Ms E Maurer
12. Ms T Pullman
13. Mr J Rossi
14. Mr K Scott
15. Ms K Smith
16. Ms J Verzi

Of these 16 submissions; one related to Council's funding of cycleways; one related to grants to secondary schools from Council's environmental fund; two related to proposed Special Rate Variation; and the remaining 12 related to issues associated with either or both the Oasis Swimming Centre or Richmond Pool.

In summary, these submissions made the following comments (comments 3 to 14 relate to the proposed Special Rate Variation):

1. Include \$50,000 for cycleway construction. Imperative for continuation of cycleway from Kurmond to Kurrajong to be completed, survey already undertaken.

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2. Sum of \$160,000 should be provided as "seeding" grants for secondary schools for environmental projects similar to grants recently given to primary schools.
3. Council should not consider a rate increase without community consultation (This submission was received prior to the commencement of the exhibition period for Council's draft Management Plan incorporating the proposed variation).
4. Council should look other ways of cutting costs, to restructure and look at other ways of obtaining monies required.
5. Works on roads and parks should be contracted out more economically.
6. What happened to the GST and other funding that could be accessed.
7. Council should operate within its budget and use it as a proper business tool.
8. Suggests that the council area has sustained a high growth rate over many years and Council should have allowed for this within its business plan.
9. Suggests that proposal to increase rates is a result of mismanagement and poor planning.
10. Council has not investigated all avenues for funding, i.e. a commercial business rate.
11. Apply for more government grants.
12. Reduce expenditure on legal services and consultants.
13. Council should act to alleviate the cost of pump out services.
14. Suggests that Council does not do enough for the community and can't support a rate increase.
15. Lane space available at Oasis Swimming Centre for squads during winter.
16. Outdoor pool at oasis Swimming Centre should be heated and opened during winter to alleviate the above (suggestion for reduced hours to assist squad situation).
17. Wizard Swim Team requesting refund of cost of attending Oasis Swimming Centre for squads following closure of Richmond Pool for winter (approximately \$1,000 per month).
18. Undertake upgrade of Richmond Pool / match grant for upgrade.
19. Heat Richmond Pool so available all year (squads etc).

Comments

Issue 1

Council is currently facing a situation where there is a significant proportion of its infrastructure that is in need of replacement. This includes not only roads, but also kerb and gutter and footpaving. The cycleway funding of \$50,000 which was matching funding for an RTA grant was specifically for the provision of new work. In asset management principles it is ill conceived to provide funds for the provision of new infrastructure when there is inadequate funding to replace/repair existing assets.

Issue 2

The environmental (stormwater) levy has ceased at the end of the 2006/2007 financial year. A review of the program of works to prioritise projects in line with available funds is currently being prepared for Council's consideration. This request will be included as part of that report.

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Issue 3

Community consultation was carried out in accordance with the Draft Community Consultation/Engagement Strategy and in accordance with the Department of Local Government guidelines regarding applications for Ministerial approval for a special variation to general income.

Issue 4

In attempting to address Council's ongoing financial position, management has, over the last two financial years, implemented a number of strategies to reduce costs as detailed in the following table:

STRATEGY	\$	Effect
Implemented		
Reduced employee costs - 20 positions redundant - Sick leave bonus abolished	1,100,000	Annual & ongoing
Fee & interest review	450,000	Annual & ongoing
Contract rationalisation	370,000	Annual & ongoing
Fleet review	230,000	Annual & ongoing
Fire control rationalisation	89,000	Annual & ongoing
Total annual & ongoing	2,239,000	
Staff Freeze	351,000	2005/2006 Budget
Accumulated leave reductions (one-off)	99,000	2005/2006 Budget

The "Natural Attrition of Staff" referred to in the above table has resulted in the eight positions that had become vacant during the year being declared redundant. In addition, a further 12 positions have recently been made redundant through a combination of voluntary redundancies and vacancies. This has resulted in a total annual saving in employee costs of approximately \$1m.

The 20 positions in total referred to in the above paragraph were:

1. Building & Development Officer
2. Admin. Officer, Cultural Planning
3. Data Administration Officer
4. Finance Officer
5. Administration Officer, Purchasing
6. Road Works O.H. & Safety Officer
7. Internal Auditor
8. Corporate Systems Support Officer
9. Child Development Officer
10. Nurse
11. Community Access Worker
12. Admin. Officer, E&D
13. Engineering Surveyor
14. Executive Manager, E&D
15. Finance Officer
16. Town Planning Assistant
17. Building Surveyor
18. Intermediate Plant Operator
19. Mechanic
20. Word Processing Operator

In addition, Council is in the process of further defining its services levels across the organisation in order to determine appropriate levels for those services and to identify and implement rationalisation and/or reductions in those areas where further savings and cost reductions to the operational budget can be achieved. To date, it is estimated that savings in the order of \$1,100,000, on an ongoing basis, have been achieved through this process.

In addition, the Council at its meeting held on 8 May 2007 formerly made the position of director Commercial Strategy redundant resulting in a further saving of \$175,000 per year.

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Issue 5

Works on roads and parks are substantially contracted out and each contract is awarded in accordance with Council's procurement procedure. Council's procurement procedure was reviewed and updated in 2007, and the procedure ensures council receives value for money for all contracts awarded.

Issue 6

GST is collected by the Federal Government and partially remitted to the various State Governments. Currently there is no process in place for Local Governments to directly access any GST revenue. With regard to "other funding that could be accessed" see comments in relation to issue 9.

Issue 7

Council does operate within its budget as evidenced by ongoing small surpluses achieved throughout 2006/2007. These variances to budget are reported to Council as part of the quarterly budget review process. Management considers it does use the budget process "as a proper business tool".

Issue 8

In respect to growth rates since 2001, these had been anticipated and the growth has been projected to range between 1.1% p.a. to 1.6% p.a. The 1.1% is based on projections of the growth rates calculated between 1996 and 2001, and the 1.6% is an adjusted projection for maximum migration due to new lot potential having been reached. It cannot be argued that this is an excessive or extreme growth rate; indeed it is quite a moderate growth rate. The provision of services to accommodate this new population has been planned for in the section 94 Contribution Plans.

Issue 9

Management is of the view that the proposal for a Special Rate Variation is a result of limited available revenue that, over time, is insufficient to meet the required level of maintenance on Council's existing infrastructure. Management refutes that the proposal to increase rates is a result of mismanagement and poor planning.

Council's external auditor, Dennis Banicevic, addressed Council on 28 November 2006 and some of his main points were:

- "all indicators are better than accepted industry standards which leads me to conclude that Council is a sound and stable financial position at this moment. Now it doesn't quite end there because when you are looking at financial viability you need to look at the condition of our infrastructure ...and Council is actually incurring ongoing deficits....and that can't go on indefinitely"
- "...if you don't maintain your infrastructure, it deteriorates exponentially and so there is actually a cost to Council in deferring that maintenance. My advice to all Councils is that we should be spending the required amount of money to maintain the infrastructure to a satisfactory standard."
- "We have had rate pegging in NSW for nearly 30 years and...the problem you have got is the direct result of not having been able to raise enough money to carry out all the services that were necessary to maintain the infrastructure."
- "What has been happening to Local Government is we have had services cost shifting, we have had services shifted over to our responsibility but we haven't has the income streams necessary to fund them...you can't keep going like that forever."
- "It's not prudent to be in a position where your recurrent income is less than your recurrent expenditure... I think that it has happened for too long and that has caused some fundamental imbalances in Council's finances, not just here but right across the state."

Issue 10

Council has a commercial business rate. Council has considered various alternative funding sources over the past year.

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Issue 11

Council has recently reviewed its procedures on Government grant applications, and will actively pursue all available grant funding that aligns with Council's strategic vision.

Issue 12

Council has reviewed expenditure on legal services and consultants

Council mainly incurs legal costs in relation to planning issues, property transactions and insurance related issues. All efforts are made to ensure Council minimises legal expenditure and that it receives value for money for its legal services.

With regard to consultants, these are only utilised to undertake work where the expertise is not available internally; where Council's resources require supplementing due to workloads; where it is not appropriate to undertake work internally (such as an assessment of a Council proposal); where it is necessary for an independent assessment to be undertaken in association with legal proceedings involving the Council, etc. Consultants are utilised only when necessary or in accordance with a Council direction on a particular issue.

Issue 13

Council has increased its sewerage charges for 2007/2008 by 3.25% and has maintained its sullage charges at the existing 2006/2007 rates.

Residents of Hawkesbury City Council will not see substantial cost alleviation until properties are connected to Sydney Water's sewerage scheme. This program is not under the control of Council.

Issue 14

Comments noted.

Issue 15

The management of the Oasis Recreation facility has been delegated to the YMCA under a management contract. The provision of lane space is currently being reviewed by the YMCA and includes a formal consultation process with stakeholders, a public forum and request for written submissions. The process is expected to be completed by mid August 2007.

Issue 16

The outdoor pool at Oasis has nominal heating which enables the swimming season to be extended at both ends should it be required. To provide a heated facility over the winter period would require the purchase of additional heat pumps (approximately \$200,000) and a thermal blanket (\$30,000) which would need to be in place at night. It is estimated that the additional electricity costs would be in the vicinity of \$40,000 per annum and there would also be the obvious additional costs in terms of supervision (lifeguards) water and chemical dosing.

Issue 17

The Wizard Swim Team were offered lane space at Richmond Pool over the 2006/2007 summer period following representation from the team that there was insufficient lane space available at the Oasis. Due to the different charging structure between the two centres, Wizard's gained a concession over the period they utilised the Richmond Pool for training. All squads are subject to the fees adopted for use of lane space at the Oasis.

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Issue 18

The grant to upgrade the Richmond Pool has been accepted and it is proposed that the matching funding will be provided through the Infrastructure Renewal Program should the proposed rate variation be accepted by the Minister for Local Government. Should the rate variation be unsuccessful it would be necessary to reprioritise the Works Program to provide the funding required.

Issue 19

The estimated capital cost of heating Richmond Pool to enable year round use is \$320,000 (heat pumps) and \$30,000 for a thermal blanket. Additional costs in terms of electricity, water, chemicals and staffing would also be significant and, unless full cost recovery was applied, this would be an additional drain on Council's resources which could not be recommended at this stage.

Kerbside Bulk Waste Collection

Council's annual charge for kerbside bulk waste collection for 2006/2007 was \$16.00. The proposed charge exhibited in the draft Management Plan for 2007/2008 was \$17.00. Following a review of service utilisation during 2006/2007 it is now proposed that the annual charge for kerbside bulk waste collection for 2007/2008 be set at \$15.00.

Council Organisational Structure

In accordance with Council's resolution of 17 April 2007 the following report to this meeting deals with a review of Council's organisational. Therefore, the draft Management Plan will require amendment to reflect any change in the structure that may subsequently adopted by Council.

Accordingly, a recommendation will be included at the conclusion of this report to facilitate any amendments that may be required and to also facilitate amendments required as a result of Council's recent resolutions to make the position of Director Commercial Strategy redundant and to note that the CRU has ceased to operate.

Special Rate Variation

At the Ordinary Meeting of Council held on 27 March 2007 consideration was given to a report by the General Manager in relation to a possible special rate variation for the 2007/2008 financial year. Council subsequently resolved:

"That Council indicate to the Department of Local Government its intention to apply for a Special Rate Variation under Section 508(2) of the Act in 2007/2008 of 9.5% (including any approved "rate pegging" increase) by the lodgement of the required "Intention to Apply" form with the Department by 31 March 2007."

At its meeting held on 17 April 2007 Council considered a report by the General Manager in relation to the Draft Community Consultation/Engagement Strategy and resolved:

"That the information concerning the Draft Community Consultation/Engagement Strategy for use in association with Council's Proposed Special Rate Variation for 2007/2008 be noted and the various proposals detailed in the report in this regard be implemented including the participation of the Community Planning Advisory Committee."

As indicated earlier in this report the Minister subsequently announced a rate pegging increase of 3.4% for general rate income as compared to the 3.25% increase anticipated in preparing the draft Management Plan documentation.

This effectively provided for the Infrastructure Renewal Program representing a Special Rate Variation of 6.1% as compared to the initially proposed program of 6.25% based on the anticipated rate pegging increase. This only represents a minor variation of approximately \$30,000 between the two components and appropriate adjustments were made to Special Rate Variation submission prior to its lodgement with

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the Department of Local Government on 28 May 2007. All required information, including details of public submissions received by Council, has been provided.

The Minister as yet has not given a determination on the Special Rate Variation.

As a result, it is suggested that Council, at this meeting, could adopt the Management Plan; incorporating Council's Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Budget and Revenue Pricing Policy for 2007/2008, subject to any adjustments that may be necessary as a result of the Minister's determination of Council's submission for a Special Rate Variation for 2007/2008.

Council's proposed Rates and Charges for the period 1 July 2007 to 30 June 2008 were published in Council's Revenue Pricing Policy as part of the 2007/2008 draft Management Plan which has recently been on public exhibition. The only section of this particular policy that is dependent upon the Minister's determination are the Ordinary Rates and therefore this course of action is considered appropriate.

In this regard, Section 406 of the *Local Government Act 1993* requires Council to adopt its Management Plan for the subsequent year by 30 June. As the actual date that the Minister will advise Council of his determination is unknown, it would be appropriate for the Management Plan be adopted at this meeting, subject to the proviso referred to above.

If the Minister's determination is not available on 25 June 2007 for this meeting, it is then suggested that the Council adjourn this meeting to 7:00pm on Tuesday, 3 July 2007 (normal Councillor Briefing Session evening) to enable it to further consider the action of fixing Ordinary Rates in the light of any determination handed down by the Minister in the intervening period.

Should advice not be received by 3 July 2007, the Council could again adjourn the meeting to a subsequent date, pending receipt of advice of the Minister's determination on Council's submission. If subsequent events do not enable Council to set the Ordinary Rate until after 30 June 2007, Council will have complied with the requirements of the *Local Government Act 1993* by adopting the Management Plan prior to this date.

Other Budget Related Matters

Grant Details

Details of grant/reserve funding included in the Budget will require addition and/or amendment as follows:

- RTA Roads to Recovery - an increase of \$141,955 (Ham Street \$65,000, Gormley Street \$80,080, James Meehan Road \$42,250 added on, Brahma Road \$45,375 taken off).
- Racecourse Road - Grant funded \$732,000, Council funded \$5,000, previously not included.
- Regional Roads - RTA Funds \$786,000, all grant funded, previously not included.
- Racecourse Road Sullage - \$70,000, Reserve funded , previously not included.
- Blaxland Ridge Road Sullage - \$30,000, Reserve funded , previously not included.

Fees & Charges

The Fees & Charges within Council's Revenue Pricing Policy under Part G - Waste Management Facility (page 41) for External Services requires the addition of the following:

Footnote

All above prices that include the Section 88 Waste Levy will be reduced by the Levy amount, where exemption from the Levy has been granted by the DECC .

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DECC = Department of Environment & Climate Change

The Fees & Charges within Council's Revenue Pricing Policy under Part J – Footpath Usage (page 43) for External Services requires the removal of the indicated \$85 m2 fee and the insertion of the words "To be determined" from 3.1(c) and 3.2(c). This is required as the Council has yet to consider a further report in relation to the determination of a per m2 fee for this purpose.

Other than the issues referred to above; the transfer of some income and expenditure items between components; and the correction of errors that do not affect the overall budget figures, no other changes have been made or proposed to the budget as presented to Council on and amended as a result of Council's resolution of 17 April 2007 that require Council's further consideration.

RECOMMENDATION:

That:

1. The draft Management Plan, incorporating Council's Strategic Plan, Operational Plan, Budget Estimates and Revenue Pricing Policy, for 2007/2008 be adopted subject to:
 - a) any subsequent adjustments required to be made as a result of the determination of Council's Special Rate Variation submission under Section 508(2) of the *Local Government Act 1993* by the Minister and in the event that the Minister determines Council's submission at a lower rate than that sought for 2007/2008, a further report be submitted to Council regarding adjustments required to the Plan as a result of the determination in relevant areas such as the proposed Infrastructure Renewal Program.
 - b) the amendment of the Management Plan contents and structure to reflect any changes to the Council's organisational structure as a result of the Council's consideration of a report in this regard at this meeting and as required as a result of previous resolutions of Council.
 - c) the inclusion of details of grant/reserve funding requiring inclusion in the Budget as detailed in the report.
 - d) the removal of the indicated \$85 m2 fee and the insertion of the words "To be determined" under items 3.1(c) and 3.2(c) in the Fees & Charges within Council's Revenue Pricing Policy under Part J – Footpath Usage (current page 43) for External Services.
 - e) The following additional wording be included in the Fees & Charges within Council's Revenue Pricing Policy under Part G - Waste Management Facility (current page 41) for External Services:

"Footnote

All above prices that include the Section 88 Waste Levy will be reduced by the Levy amount, where exemption from the Levy has been granted by the DECC.

DECC = Department of Environment & Climate Change."

2. That Council Make and Levy the following Rates and Fix the following Charges for the 2007/2008 financial period:

Domestic Waste Management Service

That in accordance with Section 496 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*:

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- A Domestic Waste Management Service annual charge of \$270.00 be made for a 240 litre bin, and an annual charge of \$165.00 be made for a 120 litre bin for each weekly domestic waste service to an occupied property which is categorised as residential or farmland, and for which a weekly domestic waste service is available.
- A Domestic Waste Management Service annual charge of \$165.00 be made for a 240 litre bin, and an annual charge of \$112.00 be made for a 120 litre bin for each fortnightly domestic waste service to an occupied property which is categorised as residential or farmland, and for which a fortnightly domestic waste service is available.
- A Domestic Waste Management Service availability charge of \$84.00 be made for parcels of land where a weekly domestic waste service is available but the service is not utilised.
- A Domestic Waste Management Service availability charge of \$42.00 be made for parcels of land where a fortnightly domestic waste service is available but the service is not utilised.

That in accordance with section 575 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* where a property is owned and occupied by eligible pensioner(s), a rebate amounting to 50% (fifty percent) of the combined rates and domestic waste service charges up to a maximum of \$250.00 (two hundred and fifty dollars) in annual subsidy will be granted for 2007/2008.

Kerbside Bulk Waste Collection

That for 2007/2008 in accordance with section 496 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* a Domestic Waste Management Service annual charge of \$15.00 be made for parcels of land where the kerbside bulk waste collection and disposal service is available.

Waste Management Service

That for 2007/2008, in accordance with section 501 of the *Local Government Act, 1993* a Waste Management Service annual charge of \$270.00 be made for a 240 litre bin, and an annual charge of \$165.00 be made for a 120 litre bin for each weekly waste service to a property which is categorised as business and for which a weekly waste service is utilised.

Sewerage Service

That for 2007/2008, in accordance with section 501 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, the following range of annual charges be made for the provision of sewerage services.

- Connected Residential Properties.....\$414.00
- Residential Excess Usage.....\$484.00
- Unconnected Residential Properties.....\$277.00
- Unconnected Business Properties.....\$277.00
- Business - Category 1 (<1,000 litres per day).....\$484.00
- Business - Category 2 (1,001 - 5,000 litres per day).....\$2,420.00
- Business - Category 3 (5,001 - 10,000 litres per day).....\$4,821.00
- Business - Category 4 (10,001 - 20,000 litres per day).....\$9,611.00
- Business - Category 5 (>20,000 litres per day).....\$9,611.00

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- Additionally, a trade waste volume charge of \$1.75 per kilometre be charged to category 5 properties for each kilometre in excess of 20,000.

Where a residential property receiving this service is owned by pensioner(s) eligible for an Ordinary Rate pensioner rebate, then a rebate amounting to \$207.00 be granted to the owner(s) in annual subsidy for 2007/2008.

Sullage Pump-Out Services

That for 2007/2008, in accordance with section 501 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*:

- A Sullage Pump-out Service annual charge of \$1,393.00 will be made for the provision of a fortnightly sullage pump-out service to residential properties.
- A Sullage Pump-out Service annual charge of \$2,786.00 will be made for the provision of a weekly sullage pump-out service to residential properties.
- Where a property receiving a sullage pump-out service is owned by pensioner(s) eligible for an Ordinary Rate pensioner rebate, and the property is occupied solely by the eligible pensioner(s), then a rebate amounting to \$625.00 be granted to the owner(s) in annual subsidy for 2007/2008. Rebates are not available to properties occupied by adults who are ineligible for the Ordinary Rate pensioner rebate.
- Additional pump-outs can be requested at a cost of \$86.00 per extra service.
- Emergency after hours pump-outs be charged at \$108.00 per service.
- In accordance with section 502 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, that a charge of \$15.50 be made for each 1,000 (one thousand) litres of effluent pumped out from commercial and industrial properties for services being conducted at the request of the owner or occupier.

Interest Charges

That in accordance with section 566 of the *Local Government Act, 1993*, simple interest charges at 10.00% per annum, accrued on a daily basis be charged on rates and charges that remain unpaid and have become due and payable.

3. The Council meeting be adjourned until 7:00pm on Tuesday, 3 July 2007 pending receipt of advice concerning the Ministers determination of it's submission for a Special Rate Variation to enable Council to make and fix the Ordinary Rate for 2007/2008 in the light of that determination and in the event of the determination not being available by that date the meeting again be adjourned to a later date for this purpose.
4. The persons who made submissions in response to the exhibition of Council's 2007/2008 draft Management Plan be advised of Council decision in this regard.

ATTACHMENTS:

There are no supporting documents for this report.

oooO END OF REPORT Oooo

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CONFIDENTIAL REPORTS

Item: 108 **AGM - Organisation Structure - (79351, 107) CONFIDENTIAL**

Previous Item: 65, Special (17 April 2007)

Reason for Confidentiality

*This report is **CONFIDENTIAL** in accordance with the provisions of Part 1 of Chapter 4 of the Local Government Act, 1993, and the matters dealt with in this report are to be considered while the meeting is closed to the press and the public.*

Specifically, the matter is to be dealt with pursuant to Section 10A(2)(a) of the Act as it relates to personnel matters concerning particular individuals (other than councillors).

In accordance with the provisions of Section 11(2) & (3) of the Local Government Act, 1993, the reports, correspondence and other relevant documentation relating to this matter are to be withheld from the press and public.

SPECIAL MEETING

Meeting Date: 25 June 2007



special
meeting

end of
business
paper

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