



MINUTES
of the
SPECIAL MEETING OF COUNCIL
held on
WEDNESDAY 11 JUNE 2014
in the
ALEXANDRA COUNCIL CHAMBERS
commencing at
6.00 pm

INDEX

1.	PRAYER.....	2
2.	APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE	2
3.	DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST.....	2
4.	OPEN FORUM.....	2
5.	COUNCIL BUDGET 2014-2015 SUBMISSIONS	3
5.1	Consideration of Submissions for Council Budget 2014-2015	3
6.	COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 SUBMISSIONS	5
6.1	Consideration of Submissions for Review of Council Plan 2013-2017.....	5

1. PRAYER

The meeting was opened with Prayer and reading of the Reconciliation Statement.

2. APOLOGIES AND REQUESTS FOR LEAVE OF ABSENCE

An Apology was received from Cr C Ruhr.

RESOLUTION:

Cr C Challen / Cr J Kennedy

That Council accept the apologies of Cr C Ruhr.

CARRIED

Present:

Crs M Rae (Chair), A Derwent, C Challen, J Kennedy, B Magner, J Walsh

In attendance:

Chief Executive Officer: Margaret Abbey

General Manager Corporate and Community Services: Michael Chesworth

General Manager Infrastructure and Development Services: Tamara Johnson

Manager Business Services: Andrew Bond

Manager Communications Library & Customer Service: Jacqui Rabel

3. DISCLOSURE OF INTEREST OR CONFLICT OF INTEREST

REF: SF/783

No disclosures declared.

4. OPEN FORUM

The Chairperson declared Open Forum and invited those who wished to talk to their submissions on the Council Budget 2014-2015 and Council Plan 2013-2017 Review to do so.

Ian McKaskill, representing Alexandra Traders & Tourism Association (ATTA) and the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre, spoke in support of the ATTA budget submission for additional funding support for the Alexandra Visitor Information Centre.

The Chairperson closed Open Forum.

5. COUNCIL BUDGET 2014-2015 SUBMISSIONS

5.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR COUNCIL BUDGET 2014-2015

REF: FY39

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the Council Budget 2014-2015.

Recommendation:

That Council considers the submissions received in relation to the Council Budget 2014-2015.

Background:

At a Special Meeting of Council on 30 April 2014, the Draft 2014-2015 Budget was endorsed for public consultation in accordance with Section 127 of the *Local Government Act 1989*. Submissions were sought from the public and the budget documents were made available at Council Offices and on Council's website.

Advertisements were placed in the relevant weekly newspapers in the Shire.

At the time of preparing the agenda, a total of two (2) submissions were received and scanned copies of the submissions have been provided to Councillors under separate cover. Acknowledgement letters were sent to the submitters, confirming receipt of their submissions and informing them of the opportunity to attend the Special Meeting on the 11 June 2014 to speak to their submissions if they wished.

Council Plan/Strategies:

This process is part of the required process for adoption of the 2014-2015 Council Budget.

Legal/Policy Issues:

The process complies with the relevant provisions of the *Local Government Act 1989*.

Financial/Resources/Risk

There are no financial considerations regarding the consideration of submissions.

Consultation:

The Council Budget 2014-2015 was advertised for public consultation and submissions in the following publications:

Newspaper / Other	Publishing Date (s)
Alexandra Standard	07-May-14
Yea Chronicle	07-May-14
Marysville Triangle	08-May-14
North Central Review	06-May-14
Website	05-May-14
Copies at Council offices: Alexandra, Kinglake, Yea and also Eildon Resource Centre & Marysville Visitor Information Centre	05-May-14

Discussion:

A total of two (2) submissions were received in relation to the Draft 2014-2015 Budget. The submissions have been summarised to their salient points and are provided below.

Following consideration of submissions, the submitters will receive a reply in respect of the matters identified.

Summary of Submissions:**Submitter 1**

- To assist in promoting employment options and local economic development, has Council given any thought to approaching the RMIT Infrastructure department, to seek their ideas regarding local industry strategies? Some students may have ideas regarding future options that are different to more established ideas by people “entrenched in their profession”.
- Has Council given any thought to develop a town solar plant in Yea, that would both support the local community and potentially generate a profit by selling energy back into the grid?
- Council’s plans to upgrade the swimming pool facilities at Yea are noted and well received. Is a kiosk included in the upgrade plans as this could provide a surplus of funds to Council if it can generate a profit?

Submitter 2

- Proposal for increased financial assistance from Council to help support the Visitor Information Centre in Alexandra (“Alexandra VIC”) – Council’s current contribution of \$3,500 is acknowledged.
- It is estimated that the Alexandra VIC requires approximately \$15,000 in additional revenue to continue to provide a “reasonable level of services” to the residents of and visitors to Alexandra.
- The Alexandra VIC is presently running at a loss. Alexandra VIC is proposing a range of measures to assist in minimising costs, such as increasing their volunteer pool, reducing opening hours in non-peak times and increasing fund raising activities.
- A proposed shared funding model to assist in meeting the costs of the Alexandra VIC is proposed by the Alexandra Tourism & Trading Association (“ATTA”) to cover the costs of the Alexandra VIC, by way of a \$7,500 contribution each from both Council and the ATTA.
- The ATTA are presently meeting the full shortfall in operational costs of the Alexandra VIC, and as a result has limited funds left to support growth, economic development and tourism initiatives.
- If the proposed shared funding model is agreed to by Council, the ATTA would utilise the \$7,500 available to them to fund the following initiatives:
 - Increased advertising in metropolitan and regional media to promote Alexandra and the district as a tourism destination (\$3,500);
 - Production of an ATTA brochure to promote ATTA members to visitors (\$1,200). This will also help ATTA increase membership;
 - Increased profile of the www.alexandratourism.com through Google-advertisement paid searches (\$300);
 - Street entertainment at selected times during the year to assist tourism development (\$1,000); and

- o Entertainment and activities for the Great Victorian Bike Ride in December 2014 to assist tourism development and promotion of the Rail Trail (\$1,500).

Cr Walsh alerted Councillors to the minutes of the Yea Saleyards Committee of Management held on 8 April 2014 where the Committee has adopted a proposal for a reduction in scanning fees at Yea Saleyards from \$2.50 to \$2.20 per head.

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council considers the submissions for relevance and its influence on the Draft 2014-2015 Budget prior to adoption at the next Ordinary Meeting of Council on 25 June 2014.

RESOLUTION:

Cr J Walsh / Cr J Kennedy

That Council considers the submissions received in relation to the Council Budget 2014-2015.

CARRIED

6. COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017 SUBMISSIONS

6.1 CONSIDERATION OF SUBMISSIONS FOR REVIEW OF COUNCIL PLAN 2013-2017

REF: FY39

Addendum report as presented.

Purpose:

The purpose of this report is to provide Councillors with a summary of the submissions received in relation to the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review.

Recommendation:

That Council considers the submission received in relation to the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review.

Discussion:

Further to the issuance of the agenda on 6 June 2014, a submission relating to the 2013-2017 Council Plan review was received by Council officers.

Following consideration of submission, all submitters will receive a reply in respect of their individual proposals and suggestions.

Summary of Submissions

Submitter 1

- The Alexandra Railway Precinct is seeking recognition in the 2013-2017 Council Plan under the Year 2 actions (2014/2015) for Tourism Development, as a specific action item for the development of a Master Plan for the Alexandra Railway Precinct, which incorporates the Alexandra Timber Tramway & Museum.
- This project is highlighted as a Tier Two project in the recently released Goulburn River Valley Tourism Destination Management Plan, which Council has already supported.

- The submitter believes that by having this item specifically listed in the Council Plan could assist the Precinct in further fundraising and grant funding opportunities.

Conclusion:

It is appropriate that Council considers all submissions for relevance and their influence on the 2013-2017 Council Plan prior to adoption.

RESOLUTION:

Cr A Derwent / Cr J Kennedy

That Council considers the submission received in relation to the 2013-2017 Council Plan Review.

CARRIED

There being no further items of Business, the Chairperson declared the meeting closed at 6.27 pm.

CONFIRMED THIS

CHAIRPERSON
